

Rehabilitation Counseling

College of Education

The Graduate Program in Rehabilitation Counseling in the Department of Early Childhood, Special Education, and Rehabilitation Counseling offers both a Master's and doctoral degree in Rehabilitation Counseling. For application procedures, please go to the Graduate School web site (<http://gradschool.uky.edu>) and follow the directions for the Apply Yourself application. This electronic application incorporates the program and Graduate School application process.

Master of Science

The master's curriculum, in accordance with the guidelines of accreditation and certification organizations in Rehabilitation Counseling, provides for flexible programming in response to individual student needs and interests. The program is fully accredited by the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) and fulfills national certification requirements in Rehabilitation Counseling. Program graduates are eligible to sit for the Rehabilitation Counseling Certification (CRCC) Examination, state licensure as a Professional Counselor (LPC), and other national and state certifications.

The program trains students to understand the physical, psychological, social, cultural, global, and economic factors affecting persons with disabilities, and to provide counseling for people with disabilities in a wide variety of professional settings. Rehabilitation Counseling is among the fastest growing professions. Rehabilitation Counselors are professional counselors who provide and coordinate services to persons with emotional, physical, neurological, learning, and developmental disabilities that may interfere with productive functioning, quality of life, and independent living. The counselor must demonstrate competencies in ethics, in establishing and conducting counseling relationships, assessment procedures, vocational placement, program planning and coordination; have an awareness of professional and community resources that can be utilized in the rehabilitation process; have knowledge of persons from culturally diverse backgrounds, and understand how rehabilitation engineering and technology can be utilized to help clients achieve their goals.

The Master's program is offered on campus and via on line web based instruction for employed rehabilitation professionals. These two programs are equivalent with regard to content and student learning outcomes and can be completed in the same timeframe. Please contact the Program Coordinator regarding eligibility requirements for the on line program.

Emphasis is placed on social justice, severe disability and its consequences, independent living, job development and placement, human growth and development, the provision of services in rural communities, technology, business and industry, and consumer issues and rights. Graduates of the program are employed in a wide range of public and private Rehabilitation Counseling, health, educational, mental health, and human service settings. Students interested in obtaining a terminal degree in Rehabilitation Counseling following the completion of their master's degree are encouraged to apply to the doctoral program, described below.

Students who express an interest in employment in public rehabilitation are eligible for a federal personnel preparation scholarship, when available. This scholarship pays tuition and provides a monthly stipend. Scholarship recipients are required to become employed in a public rehabilitation agency or a program, which procures services from a public rehabilitation agency. The program also has a scholarship program to train students for practice in rural rehabilitation environments.

In addition, an Endorsement Curriculum and University Scholars Program in conjunction with Kentucky

State University facilitate the enrollment of persons from culturally diverse backgrounds. An 18-hour certificate program for employed rehabilitation professionals desiring the Certified Rehabilitation Counseling designation has recently been approved. Please contact the Program Coordinator for more information about this new certificate and eligibility requirement.

Admission Requirements

The Rehabilitation Counseling master's program has the following admission requirements. Students are required to have a minimum undergraduate grade point average of 2.75, submit three letters of reference, complete a statement of professional goals and objectives, complete a program application, and participate in an interview with faculty. Under certain circumstances, the program may petition the Graduate School to request a waiver of the undergraduate grade point average.

The program faculty considers all of this information in making admissions decisions. Students are admitted from a wide range of backgrounds and academic disciplines. Students are admitted for the fall, spring, or summer semesters. Admission requirements are the same for the campus and on line programs except that we do not admit online distance learning students in the summer semester but do admit campus students in the summer.

Program Requirements

Course and fieldwork total a minimum of 48 credit hours if the student has a bachelor's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling or related course work. The typical program for other students is 57 hours, up to a maximum of 60 hours. At least 75% of the credit hours must be taken at the University of Kentucky. Campus courses are offered in the late afternoon and early evening to accommodate full- and part-time students. Students who attend the program on a full-time basis can complete the program in 16 months. The program is also offered for practicing rehabilitation counselors on a web-based distance education basis.

Admission to Field Work

Admission to field work will be considered after the student has completed two semesters (full-time) of graduate study or when the student has completed 20 hours of graduate study. The decision to advance to fieldwork includes successful completion of the admission to fieldwork examination, demonstrated skill in academic areas, and a judgment by the faculty that the student possesses the professional, ethical, personal, and social characteristics necessary for providing professional Rehabilitation Counseling services. In addition, the student must have no "I" (incomplete) or S grades. Any E grades must also be cleared with a regular letter grade prior to beginning fieldwork. Students must also be in good academic standing in order to begin fieldwork.

Field Work

The first fieldwork component is a three-credit practicum, which consists of 200 clock hours of supervised experience in Rehabilitation Counseling or rehabilitation-related setting, a weekly seminar, and individual supervision. The practicum is generally taken during the eight-week summer session. However, this course is offered every semester to accommodate part-time students. A student must successfully pass the fieldwork examination prior to enrolling in the practicum.

In accordance with national accreditation and certification requirements, students then complete 600 clock hours of supervised internship in a rehabilitation or rehabilitation-related setting. Every intern student also participates in a weekly seminar and individual supervision. Internship is three credits per 200 clock hours, and may be taken in the summer, fall, or spring semesters following practicum. The internship is taken in one semester; or, due to extenuating circumstances, it may be divided into two semesters. It is recommended, however, that the internship be completed in one semester.

Students who are federal Rehabilitation Services Administration Scholars must do their fieldwork in a public rehabilitation agency and must obtain employment in a public rehabilitation program or an agency or program that provides services to the state federal program.

Students must successfully complete their internship, and demonstrate competence in working with individuals with disabilities in the context of a professional Rehabilitation Counseling relationship in order to graduate. A final written examination is given at the completion of all course work. Graduation is contingent upon the successful completion of this examination. Students also have the option of using the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor examination as their final program exam.

Program of Studies and Sequence of Courses: Master's Program*

Fall Semester (First Year)

RC 515 Medical & Psychosocial Aspects I (3)
RC 520 Principles of Rehabilitation (3)
RC 525 Human Growth, Disability, & Development Across the Lifespan (3)
RC 530 Cultural Diversity in Rehabilitation (3)
RC 650 Rehabilitation Counseling Theories and Techniques I (3)

Spring Semester (First Year)

RC 516 Medical & Psychosocial Aspects II (3)
RC 610 Case Management in Rehabilitation (3)
RC 620 Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment (3)
RC 660 Rehabilitation Counseling Theories and Techniques II (3)
RC 750 Rehabilitation Counseling Research and Program Evaluation (3)

Intersession (First Year)

RC 558 Special Topics: (Mental Health/Psychopharmacology, Ethics) (1)
RC 640 Rehabilitation in Business and Industry (3)
RC 680 Mental Health Diagnosis and Treatment Planning (3)

Summer Session (First Year)

RC 560 Supported Employment/Independent Living/Transition (3)
RC 630 Placement Services and Techniques (3)
RC 710 Practicum in Rehabilitation** (3)

Fall Semester (Second Year)

RC 540 Rehabilitation in Alcoholism and Drug Dependency (3-elective)
RC 670 Group and Family Rehabilitation Counseling (3)
RC 730 Internship in Rehabilitation** (9)

Other Rehabilitation Counseling Courses

RC 517 Assistive Technology in Special Education and Rehabilitation Counseling (3)
RC 558 Mental Health Diagnosis (3)
RC 782 Directed Independent Study (1-3)
RC 711: Doctoral Seminar in Rehabilitation Counseling (3)
RC 740: Doctoral Seminar: Administration, Supervision & Program Evaluation in Rehabilitation Counseling (3)
RC 760: Contemporary Practices in Rehabilitation Counseling (3)
RC 735: Methods for Teaching and Conducting Research in Rehabilitation Counseling (3)

*A separate rotating sequence of courses is offered for students enrolled in the program through Distance Learning.

**RC 710 and 730 (Practicum and Internship) are offered every semester for part-time students.

Doctoral Rehabilitation Counseling Education, Research, and Policy Program

The Rehabilitation Counseling Doctoral Program offers a Departmental Ph.D. degree with a formal option in Rehabilitation Counseling Education, Research, and Policy. The doctoral program is campus-based (not offered on-line). We have carefully designed our doctoral curriculum to meet the needs of students who are preparing for careers in rehabilitation counselor education, research, and administration. Our students complete advanced doctoral seminars in rehabilitation counseling research, psychosocial aspects of chronic illnesses and disability, rehabilitation counseling theory, professional rehabilitation counseling issues, and rehabilitation administration and policy. In these courses, students explore a wide range of psychosocial, societal, and international perspectives on disability and rehabilitation counseling. In addition to the rehabilitation counseling professional seminars, doctoral students complete coursework in the following areas:

1. A Graduate Core (23 hours), including coursework in college and university teaching, grant writing, clinical practicum experiences and practicum experiences in university teaching, and dissertation residency;
2. A Rehabilitation Counseling area of emphasis core (15 hours) (rehabilitation counseling professional seminars, described above);
3. A thematic support area from outside the area of emphasis (15 hours), including interdisciplinary coursework consisting of courses from outside the Department, such as: Psychology, Rehabilitation Sciences, Educational and Counseling Psychology, Social Work, Sociology, Communication Disorders, or other areas, designed to develop the student's expertise in a focused area of rehabilitation counseling research, and typically this core directly relates to the student's dissertation topic;
4. A research block (21 hours), including course work in statistical methods, quantitative research methods, qualitative research methods, and mixed method approaches, and research internships.

Each student's program of studies is planned and supervised by an Advisory Committee consisting of 4 individuals, including the student's major professor and two other members from the Department. The remaining member represents the student's outside support area.

Upon completion of the prescribed coursework, students are examined to evaluate their preparedness to be advanced to candidacy for the Doctor of Philosophy degree. The basis of this evaluation is completion of a qualifying examination administered by the student's Advisory Committee.

Admissions Requirements

a) Applicants are required to have an undergraduate GPA of at least 2.75; (b) a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling or a closely-related field with a GPA of at least 3.5. (Note: Students who are entering with a non-Rehabilitation Counseling Master's degree program may be required to take leveling, or foundational courses as described below.); (c) submission of Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores (mandatory for all doctoral applicants); (d) minimum of one year (at least two preferred) of post-Master's experience in rehabilitation counseling or a related field (program will alternatively consider extensive prior related experience and exceptional academic performance on an individual basis); (e) at least three (3) positive recommendations attesting to the candidate's professional disposition and fitness for the profession, self-awareness and emotional stability, oral and written communication skills, cultural sensitivity and awareness, and potential for scholarship, professional leadership, and advocacy; (f) written statement of the applicant's objectives for completing a doctoral program; and (g) a sample of the applicant's academic and/or professional writing. Final admissions decisions are the purview of the

Department's faculty.

Note: For students applying to the Ph.D. Formal Option with a Master's or graduate degree that is not from a CORE- or CACREP-accredited rehabilitation counseling program, foundational rehabilitation counseling content and core counseling content courses may be required prior to, or concurrent with enrollment. Decisions about the need for foundational coursework are the purview of the Program faculty and will be made on an individual basis, based on review of the applicant's previous graduate coursework, review of applicant's transcripts and course descriptions; previous graduate coursework may in some cases be substituted.

Foundational Coursework includes the following: (a) Foundations or Principles of Rehabilitation Counseling or Counseling, (b) Social and Cultural Diversity, (c) Human Growth and Development, (d) Career Theory and Development, (e) Individual and Group Counseling Theories and Models, (f) Assessment and Testing, (g) Research and Program Evaluation, (h) Psychosocial and Medical Aspects of Disability.

A typical course sequence is as follows:

Graduate Core (minimum 23 credits)

1. Coursework from Professional Seminars in Advanced Rehabilitation Counseling may include:
RC 740 Administration, Supervision, & Program Evaluation in Rehabilitation Counseling
RC 735 Advanced Methods for Teaching and Conducting Research in Rehabilitation Counseling
RC 711: Advanced Seminar in Rehabilitation Counseling
RC 760: Contemporary Practices in Rehabilitation Counseling
RC 715: Advanced Seminar in Psychosocial Aspects of Chronic Illness and Disability
RC 770: Advanced Seminar in Rehabilitation Counseling Theory, Practice, and Education
2. EDS 701 / RC 701 / IEC 701: Seminar for EDSRC Leadership Personnel (1 credit each, 4 semesters) (4)
3. EDS 712 / RC 712 / IEC 712: Seminar in EDSRC Professional Services (3)
4. EDS 720 / RC 720 / IEC 720: Seminar in EDSRC Personnel Preparation (3)
5. EDS 721 / RC 721 / IEC 721: Practicum in Personnel Preparation (3-9)
6. EDS 767 / RC 767 / IEC 767: Dissertation Residency Credit (≥ 4). EDS 767 is taken for a minimum of two credits per semester for two semesters (excluding summer terms) after successful completion of the qualifying examination.
7. RC 710 Clinical Practicum in Rehabilitation Mental Health Counseling (Doctoral Section).

Rehabilitation Counseling Area of Emphasis (15 credits)

Thematic Support Area (15 credits)

Research Tools (21 credits)

Required Practicum Experiences

Clinical practicum experiences are required of all doctoral students. As with the didactic portion of the curriculum, practica experiences are planned according to the individual backgrounds and needs of each student. Students are required to complete a 200-hour clinical practicum (40% of which must be direct client contact hours).

Required Internship Experience

In the course of their program plan, students will complete 600-clock hours of supervised internship, addressing three of the five following areas: Counseling, Supervision, Teaching, Research and Scholarship, Leadership and Advocacy. The internships are designed to ensure doctoral-level experience in counselor education areas including: campus and distance-based teaching, supervision, and clinical counseling. The nature and focus of the internship will be determined in consultation with each student individually.

Professional Involvement

We encourage and support student's professional development, with an emphasis on participation in the rehabilitation counseling profession at the national level through research, publication, and participation in national conferences and leadership opportunities in our national and regional rehabilitation counseling professional associations. We provide support to our students through research grants and teaching assistantships, and a number of funding opportunities that are available to our doctoral students through our graduate school.

Graduate Courses

RC 515	Medical And Psychosocial Aspects Of Disabilities I (Same As SW 515)	(3)
RC 516	Medical And Psychosocial Aspects Of Disabilities II (Same As SW 516)	(3)
RC 520	Principles Of Rehabilitation Counseling	(3)
RC 530	Cultural Diversity In Rehabilitation Counseling	(2)
RC 540	Chemical Dependency In Rehabilitation Counseling	(3)
RC 546	Transdisciplinary Services For Students With Multiple Disabilities (Same As EDS 546)	(3)
RC 547	Collaboration And Inclusion In School And Community Settings (Same As EDS 547)	(3)
RC 558	Special Topics In Rehabilitation (Same As EDS 558)	(1-3)
RC 570	Crisis, Disaster & Trauma Response For Persons With Disability	(3)
RC 610	Case Management In Rehabilitation Counseling	(3)
RC 613	Legal And Parental Issues In School Administration	(3)
RC 620	Vocational Evaluation And Work Adjustment For The Severely Disabled	(3)
RC 630	Placement Services And Techniques In Rehabilitation Counseling	(3)
RC 640	Rehabilitation In Business And Industry	(3)
RC 650	Rehabilitation Counseling Theory And Practice I	(3)
RC 660	Rehabilitation Counseling Theory And Practice II	(3)
RC 670	Group And Family Rehabilitation Counseling	(3)
RC 680	Mental Health Diagnosis And Treatment Planning	(3)
RC 701	Seminar For Edsrc Leadership Personnel	(1)
RC 710	Clinical Practicum In Rehabilitation Mental Health Counseling	(3)
RC 711	Seminar In Advanced Rehabilitation Counseling	(3)
RC 712	Seminar In Edsrc Professional Services	(3)
RC 715	Advanced Seminar In Psychosocial Aspects Of Chronic Illness And Disability	(1-3)
RC 720	Seminar In Edsrc Personnel Preparation	(3)
RC 721	Practicum In Edsrc Personnel Preparation	(3)
RC 730	Internship In Rehabilitation Counseling	(3-9)
RC 735	Advanced Methods For Teaching And Conducting Research In Rehabilitation Counseling: From Theory To Practice	(3)
RC 740	Administration, Supervision And Program Evaluation In Rehabilitation Counseling	(3)
RC 750	Rehabilitation Research	(3)
RC 760	Contemporary Issues In Rehabilitation	(3)
RC 770	Advanced Seminar In Rehabilitation Theory, Practice And Education	(3)
RC 782	Directed Independent Study	(3)
RC 789	Independent Study In Early Childhood/Special Education/Rehabilitation Counseling Research	(3-6)