

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN REHABILITATION AND MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

The rehabilitation and mental health counseling program, fully accredited by the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) since 1975, and dually accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Programs (CACREP), is designed to prepare students to function as rehabilitation and/or clinical mental health counselors for persons with a variety of needs including mental health issues impacting the individual and/or family, and persons with physical or mental disabilities to address psychosocial and vocational adjustment. The program is grounded in a strengths-based philosophy of client empowerment where the counselor's role is to assist individuals to realize their optimum level of mental health and personal wellness, including vocational adjustment and independent living. This is done through the use of a variety of therapeutic interventions, including individual, group and/or family counseling, diagnosis, case management, the provision or coordination of evaluation, physical restoration, training, placement, and follow-up services. The demand for rehabilitation and clinical mental health counselors has exceeded the supply in recent years in public, private, nonprofit, and for-profit sectors.

A core of required graduate courses provides the basic knowledge and skills necessary to the fields of rehabilitation and mental health counseling. These include counseling theory, rehabilitation and mental health counseling principles and practices with an emphasis on psychiatric rehabilitation, individual and group counseling, assessment in rehabilitation and mental health counseling, diagnosis of mental disorders, evidence-based treatment of mental disorders, job placement, medical and psychosocial aspects of disability, human growth, career development, and research methods.

Concurrently, field work of progressively increasing complexity takes place at a variety of community-based mental health and rehabilitation sites in the Chicago area. These include mental health and counseling centers, community rehabilitation facilities, the state department of vocational rehabilitation, rehabilitation centers, mental health centers, medical hospitals, and other facilities for persons with mental health concerns and/or disabilities.

This is a two-year, 60 credit hour program.

## Curriculum

<b>Required Courses</b>		<b>(42)</b>
PSYC 410	Introduction to Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling	3
PSYC 411	Medical Aspects of Disabling Conditions	3
PSYC 412	Multicultural and Psychosocial Issues in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling	3
PSYC 513	Assessment in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling	3
PSYC 523	Introduction to Theories of Psychotherapy	3
PSYC 526	Psychopathology	3
PSYC 547	Evidence-Based Practice in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling	3
PSYC 557	Pre-Practicum in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling	3
PSYC 561	Applied Counseling Techniques: Group Counseling	3
PSYC 562	Job Placement	3
PSYC 563	Human Growth and Career Development	3
PSYC 564	Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling Research Seminar	3
PSYC 583	Rehabilitation Engineering Technology I: Survey of Interdisciplinary Application of RET	3
PSYC 590	Psychiatric Rehabilitation	3
<b>Community-Based Clinical Experience</b>		<b>(15)</b>
PSYC 549	Practicum in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling	3
PSYC 578	Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling Internship I	6
PSYC 579	Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling Internship II	6
<b>Research Project</b>		<b>(3)</b>
PSYC 594 or PSYC 576	Special Projects Research in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>60</b>

For individuals currently working in the rehabilitation and mental health counseling field who are interested in pursuing a M.S. in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling at a slower pace, there is a part-time option available which is designed to meet the needs of the working professional. Courses are generally offered in the evening and via distance education, and the required fieldwork experiences

(practicum and internship) are typically worked out with the student's place of employment if it meets fieldwork site requirements. The part-time program takes approximately three years to complete.

There are opportunities to apply for scholarships and traineeships, including the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) traineeships awarded based on commitment to working in the state/federal vocational rehabilitation (VR) system, academic performance, and economic need.