

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN REHABILITATION AND MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

The Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling program is fully accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Programs (CACREP) for both clinical rehabilitation and clinical mental health counseling. This program 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, and the provision or coordination of evaluation, 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.

Core graduate coursework provides the basic knowledge and skills necessary to the fields of rehabilitation and mental health counseling. This includes counseling theory, rehabilitation and mental health counseling principles and practices, ethics, individual and group counseling, assessment, 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. Additionally, this program has a strong emphasis on psychiatric rehabilitation.

Concurrently, fieldwork 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, the VA, rehabilitation centers, mental health centers, medical hospitals, and other facilities for persons with mental health concerns and/or disabilities.

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 an option to take a reduced course load available, which is designed to meet the needs of the working professional. Courses are generally offered in the evening or 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.

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

Curriculum

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required Courses		(45)
PSYC 410	Intro Rehab/Mental Health Cslg	3
PSYC 411	Medcl Aspects of Dsblng Cond	3
PSYC 412	Multicultural/Psychosocial Iss	3
PSYC 513	Assess Rehab/Mental Hlth Cslng	3
PSYC 523	Theories of Psychotherapy	3
PSYC 526	Psychopathology	3
PSYC 547	Evidence-Based Practice	3
PSYC 557	Pre-Practicum Rehab/Mental Hlt	3
PSYC 561	Applied Counseling Techniques	3
PSYC 562	Job Placement	3
PSYC 563	Human Growth & Career Develop	3
PSYC 564	Rehab/Mental Health CnsIng Res	3
PSYC 583	Rehab Engineering Technology I	3
PSYC 588	Graduate Psychology Seminar (Addictions and Psychopharmacology)	3
PSYC 590	Psychiatric Rehabilitation	3
Community-Based Clinical Experience		(12)
PSYC 549	Practicum Rehab Mental Health	3
PSYC 578	Clin Rehab Counseling Intern ¹	9
or PSYC 579	Clin Mental Health Counsel Int	
Research Project		(3)
PSYC 594	Special Projects	3

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or PSYC 576

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Total Credit Hours

60

¹ Students will register for 9 credit hours of internship in either PSYC 578, Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling Internship or PSYC 579, Clinical Mental Health Counseling Internship.

There are several opportunities to apply for scholarships and traineeships, including an international and multicultural counseling scholarship based on merit and economic need.