



**JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELING, REHABILITATION
AND PSYCHOMETRIC SERVICES
REHABILITATION COUNSELING PROGRAM**

NATURE AND SCOPE

Jackson State University (JSU) in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration and Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services provide training for students to become vocational rehabilitation counselors as well as certified rehabilitation counselors (CRC). The program was re-accredited in the fall of 2016 by the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) which is the accrediting body for master's level rehabilitation counselor education programs in the United States for five years. A major goal for the rehabilitation counselor is to assist persons with physical, mental or emotional disabilities in moving from a position of psychological and economic dependence to one of overall independence.

REHABILITATION FACULTY

Dr. Frank L. Giles, Professor and Program Director

(Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Certified Rehabilitation Counselor

Certified Case Manager

National Certified Counselor

Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (Mississippi)

Licensed Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (Louisiana)

Dr. Dion F. Porter, Department Chair and Associate Professor

(Ph.D., Southern Illinois University-Carbondale)

Certified Rehabilitation Counselor

Registered Vocational Expert (SSA)

Dr. Pat Green, Assistant Professor

(Ph.D., New York University (NYU))

Certified Rehabilitation Counselor

Registered Vocational Expert, Certified Non-Attorney Representative (SSA)

Dr. Patrick L. Oigbokie, Adjunct Professor

(Ph.D., Mississippi State University)

Licensed Professional Counselor (Mississippi)

Psychology Department at Mississippi State Hospital at Whitfield

PROGRAM MISSION

The mission of the Rehabilitation Counseling Program at Jackson State University is four fold: (1) to train competent field practitioners in the state of Mississippi skilled in working with individuals with various disabilities toward a goal of maximum personal, social and vocational growth, (2) to thoroughly prepare students to take and pass the certified rehabilitation counseling (CRC) exam, (3) to increase the supply of rehabilitation professionals from all racial and ethnic backgrounds with particular interests for those who are minority and those with disabilities to contribute to the community's well-being, and (4) to provide leadership throughout the community and state in rehabilitation knowledge, expertise, time and materials in the form of available students, workshops, conferences and consultation.

OBJECTIVES

First, the Rehabilitation Counseling Program (RCP) is designed to prepare master's level rehabilitation counselors who adhere to the Code of Professional Ethics for Rehabilitation Counselors and who subscribe to the basic philosophical tenets of rehabilitation, including the value and worth of all individuals, a belief in human dignity, and the right of all individuals to full participation in society. Secondly, it is the objective of the RCP to prepare rehabilitation counselors who view individuals with disabilities as equal partners in the rehabilitation process and who have the knowledge and skills to advocate for individual, societal, and environment adaptations that promote full participation.

THE PROFESSION OF REHABILITATION COUNSELING

Rehabilitation counseling is an established profession with more than 117,500 rehabilitation counselor (RC) jobs in the United States (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2014). It is expected that over the next ten years 23,400 RC jobs will be added. It is estimated that over 50 million Americans have physical, mental, or psychological disabilities that restrict some of their life activities and may prevent them from obtaining or maintaining jobs. The role of the professional rehabilitation counselor is primarily, to utilize one-to-one and group counseling procedures, case management, advocacy, and job development and placement services to bring about improved personal, educational, vocational, and social adjustment. The rehabilitation counselor should have personality traits that enable him/her to work effectively with physicians, psychologists, physical and occupational therapists, prosthetists, social workers and other members of the rehabilitation team. The consumer demand for rehabilitation services is enormous and continues to grow at a rapid rate. Rehabilitation services are provided to the older person, the child with a learning disability, the factory worker with cocaine or other drug addiction, the inmate in prison, the person with a psychiatric problem, the executive who abuses alcohol, the nurse with back pain, the individual with an amputation, the person with a head injury and various other disability groupings.

RETENTION DATA, AVERAGE TIME TO COMPLETE PROGRAM, ESTIMATED COST OF PROGRAM ATTENDANCE AND AVAILABLE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Rehabilitation Counseling Program (RCP) in 2012 enrolled 20 new graduate students and graduated 19. In 2013, 38 new graduate students enrolled and 8 graduated. During 2014, there were 26 new graduate students enrolled and 17 graduate during this period. The average amount of time to complete the 57-hour RCP was 6 semesters based upon full-time enrollment. The estimated tuition cost of completing the RCP based upon the fall 2016/spring 2017 graduate school tuition rate is approximately \$3,570.50 per semester. As noted above, graduate students can complete the RCP in approximately 6 semesters based upon full-time enrollment. There are competitive federal Rehabilitation Services Administration scholarships available.

The scholarships are provided by the Federal Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) have been available to qualified students, providing full or partial tuition and a stipend for related academic expenses. The availability of traineeships is subject to continued RSA funding. Students with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

The stipends are awarded on a competitive basis following the review of an applicant's RCP application, letters of recommendation (3) and undergraduate transcript. Students are required to have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA (on a 4 point scale) for undergraduate work. Students with less than a 3.0 GPA must earn 12 semester hours with no less than a 3.0 GPA and be fully accepted into the RCP to be considered for a RSA Scholarship. **A minimum 3.0 GPA is also required to continue to receive a traineeship. Students receiving a traineeship are subjected to having the funding withdrawn if 3 or more days of unexcused absences occur within any class or if the student's work performance during a class is found to be of significant poor quality (i.e., receiving a "D" or lower final grade) are subject to having funding withdrawn.** Work-study positions are also available to rehabilitation students. Individuals interested in work-study should contact the Financial Aid Department of the University.

There are also a limited number of Graduate Fee-Waivers that are disbursed by the Graduate School. These Fee-Waivers are independent and different than the RSA scholarships that are offered by the program.

Students receiving traineeships must indicate an interest in the practice of vocational rehabilitation of persons with physical, mental or emotional disabilities who are provided services by state agencies of vocational rehabilitation. In general, a program graduate or individual who did not complete the prescribed course of study and is not enrolled in approved rehabilitation courses must work (based upon usual salary structures of an agency) in a state agency of vocational rehabilitation for two years for each academic year that the funding was received (Note: a academic year would also be equivalent to one summer session and one regular semester). The agency work should begin within two years of completing or existing the JSU Rehabilitation Counseling Program. Individuals who do not complete the employment requirements are subject to repayment of traineeship funds and stipends with appropriate interest and fees as prescribed within the student contract with the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration. All traineeship recipients are required to complete a RSA contract prior to disbursement of traineeship funds. The RSA contract is available from the Office of the Director of the JSU Rehabilitation Counseling Program.

PROGRAM GRADUATES EMPLOYMENT, EMPLOYMENT SETTINGS, AND COMPREHENSIVE GRADUATE PASSING RATES

RCP graduates employment rate within six months of graduating is 93% based upon recent data. Program graduates have been employed in various settings including the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services and other state agencies of vocational rehabilitation, Clinical and Mental Health Agencies, Veterans Administration (VA), Substance Abuse Treatment Centers and 5) Private-For-Profit and Non-Profit rehabilitation settings. Program students are assessed at the end of their matriculation by a Comprehensive Examination that must be passed before graduation. Based upon recent data, approximately 80% of RCP students pass the RCP area comprehensive exam on the first attempt.

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION ELIGIBILITY PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALING OUTCOME DATA

Students matriculating through the program can be made eligible to sit for the State Licensure Examination by completing specific outlined coursework that is specified on the program curriculum. By taking the needed coursework as well as adhering and completing some other specified guidelines and criteria, they can become eligible to sit for the exam and go on to obtain their License Professional Counseling (LPC) distinction. Students should visit <http://www.lpc.ms.gov> for more information about the LPC. Program students are of course eligible to sit for the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) credential after completing a certain percentage of their program of study. Students should visit <http://www.crccertification.com> for more information about the CRC examination.

There were three graduates who completed RC Program Evaluation Surveys during the 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 academic years that report taking the CRC Examination. Of this total, two graduates passed the CRC Examination (this was verified via the CRC website) and one graduate did not pass. Two other graduates reported obtaining the Certified Mental Health Therapist (CMHT) credential from the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, Division of Professional Licenses and Certifications. No graduates reported taking or passing any state LPC examination.

ADMISSION PROCEDURES

Applications for admission are considered for all semesters depending on space availability. Successful candidates for admission must be reviewed favorably both by the rehabilitation faculty and The Graduate School. Applications are reviewed in terms of previous academic performance, letters of reference, professional and other work and volunteer experience, relevance of previous academic study, and consistency of professional goals with those of the program. Undergraduate preparation in rehabilitation, psychology, sociology, social work, special education, and other related fields is particularly appropriate for graduate study in rehabilitation counseling; however, consideration is given to applicants with other undergraduate and graduate majors as well. JSU complies with all applicable laws regarding affirmative action and equal opportunity in all its activities and programs and does not discriminate against anyone because of age, creed, color, national origin, race, religion, sex, disability, veteran, or other status. General admission requirements involve the completion of an application for admission to The Graduate School and a separate admission application for the Rehabilitation Counseling Program (RCP). Two official copies on each transcript should be mailed directly from the previous institution(s) of higher learning to The JSU Graduate School. Three letters of recommendation preferably from former college instructors sent directly to The Graduate School and RCP. A minimum GPA of 3.00 (on a four-point scale) at the undergraduate level. The RCP does not require GRE scores. Students should consult the Graduate Catalog for conditional status admission and special student status admission. **JSU Graduate School P.O. Box 17095, Jackson, MS 39217-0195. Graduate School Phone: (601) 979-2455 or Fax: (601)-979-6196.**

Assessment Measures

- Overall 3.0 GPA (2.8) Provisional
- 3 Letters of Recommendation
- Formal Interview by Faculty which will include a Writing Sample

Application Deadline

Open Enrollment each semester.

Application Review Period by Faculty

Applicants are reviewed as applications and transmittals become available.

Candidates Status Notification Date

Candidates will be notified of their status as their applications are reviewed and processed.

Starting Semester for newly admitted Candidates

Either Spring, Summer or Fall Semester following admission.

PROGRAM OF STUDY CURRICULUM

The Jackson State University, Rehabilitation Counseling Program provides a well-balanced curriculum of academic classes and field training which meets the accreditation requirements of the Council on Rehabilitation Education. Following the successful completion of program requirements, students are awarded a Master of Science Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling with an emphasis in Rehabilitation Counseling or Job Placement. Program graduates are eligible for national certification through the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC).

The Graduate School of Jackson State University will award the Master of Science Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling to individuals who successfully complete 57 semester hours of academic classes and field training as indicated below:

FOUNDATIONS**HOURS REQUIRED (18)**

RHAB 509 Introduction to Rehabilitation	(3)	Fall
RHAB 516 Medical Information	(3)	Fall
RHAB 560 Psychological Aspects of Rehab	(3)	Summer
RHAB 586 Research in Rehabilitation	(3)	Spring
RHAB 594 Seminar in Rehabilitation	(3)	Spring
RHAB 678 Multicultural Counseling in Rehabilitation	(3)	Spring/Fall

SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES**HOURS REQUIRED (27)**

RHAB 523 Vocational Appraisal	(3)	Spring
RHAB 524 Vocational Evaluation	(3)	Spring/Fall
RHAB 535 Techniques of Counseling	(3)	Fall
RHAB 531 Case Management in Rehab	(3)	Summer
RHAB 519 Community Resources	(3)	Summer
RHAB 532 Vocational Placement	(3)	Spring
RHAB 691 Seminar in Substance Abuse	(3)	Spring
RHAB 540 Group Counseling and Theory	(3)	Spring/Summer
COUN 611 Psychodiagnosis and Treatment	(3)	Spring

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CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

HOURS REQUIRED (9)

RHAB 577 Practicum in Rehabilitation
(100 Clock hours) (Prerequisite for RHAB 579)
RHAB 579 Internship (600 clock hours)
(600 Clock hours)

(3) Fall
(6) Spring/Summer

ELECTIVES

HOURS REQUIRED (3)

*COUN 658 Marriage and Family Therapy
RHAB 533 Placement Laboratory
RHAB 576 Practicum in Placement

(3) Spring
(3) Fall
(3) Summer

HOURS REQUIRED

TOTAL (57)

***Meets Hours Towards LPC Requirements**

NOTE: The content of this program guide are subject to change.

The primary purpose of field training is to give students the opportunity to observe and employ the skills, techniques, and concepts they have learned in academic course work.

(A) Practicum: General Practicum (3 credit/ 100 clock hours) requirements include:

- 1) Agency contact involves the student's participation for one day each week in direct contact with clients and performing related agency functions.
- 2) Exposure to two disability populations is required.

(B) Internship: General Internship (6 credit hours/600 clock hours) requirements include:

- 1) 15 weeks of full time training.
- 2) The internship is based on a 40-hour work week at an agency site.
- 3) Evaluations are conducted by the agency site supervisor, and university supervisor.
The student also evaluates the agency.

The Graduate School requires graduate students to take and successfully pass an Area Comprehensive Examination to be taken near the end of the program of study. The Graduate School also requires graduate students to take the English Competency Examination. **The English Competency Examination should be taken in the first semester of enrollment. Failure to pass the English Competency examination will necessitate three (3) semester hours of remedial course work.**

STUDENT STATUS

The general goal of the program is to prepare students to work in agencies, institutions, clinics, workshops and other sites that are devoted to rehabilitation. Erratic class attendance or poor work performance in training sites may result in the withdrawn of financial assistance. Moreover, if there is continued evidence of the student's

inability to make a direct contribution by way of performance or cooperation this may result in the student's termination from the rehabilitation program. A serious breach of ethics is just cause for program termination. Students who do not satisfactorily complete practicum or internship requirements will be required to retake such courses or have training extended until competence is achieved.

SPECIAL NEEDS LEARNERS

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply to the RCP. If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the JSU Office of Support Services for Students and Employees with Disabilities, ADA Coordinator and Compliance Officer, 2110 Student Center – Main Campus, (601) 979-3704 and Fax 601-979-6918 during the first week of class. Interested students can also visit <http://www.jsums.edu/disability/> for additional information.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Jackson State University is committed to creating a community that affirms and welcomes persons from diverse backgrounds and experiences and supports the realization of their human potential. We recognize that there are differences among groups of people and individuals based on ethnicity, race, socioeconomic status, gender, exceptionalities, language, religion, sexual orientation, and geographical area. All persons are encouraged to respect the individual differences of others.

REQUIRED GRADUATION FORMS FOR MATRICULATION

The Graduate School has developed several forms to be processed by graduate degree candidates. These forms may be obtained on-line from the Graduate Office. The forms properly executed provide general directions for matriculation at the University. Each form must be complete under the direction of the student's adviser.

- Form I is the Degree Plan (Appraisal Sheet). This form should be filled and filed at the beginning of the student's program of study. It contains principal program requirements, thereby serving as a checklist for the candidate.
- Form II is a Petition for Graduate Degree Candidacy. **FILE** Form II after earning 12 semester hours and only when all admission requirements have been met.
- Clearance Form This form is to be completed (On Line). The Graduate School Website provides the due date for this form that must be completed early in the semester of graduation. The degree candidate is made aware of the necessity to complete forms in the Offices of Alumni Affairs, Dean of Students, Placement, and Director of Financial Aid. The Student clears with the library and pays the graduation fee.

Application materials and additional information regarding the M.S. Program in Rehabilitation Counseling may be obtained from:

Rehabilitation Counseling Program
Department of School, Community and Rehabilitation Counseling
Jackson State University, P.O. Box 17122
Jackson, MS 39217-0122
Phone: 601-979-2361
E-Mail: frank.L.giles@jsums.edu Website: www.jsums.edu

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