



SCHOLARSHIPS REHABILITATION COUNSELING PROGRAM GRADUATE STUDENTS

There are currently competitive federal Rehabilitation Services Administration scholarships available. The scholarships are provided by the Federal Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) are available to fully admitted qualified rehabilitation counseling graduate students, providing full or partial tuition along with a stipend (the stipend amount may vary on a per semester basis depending on amount available funding) for related academic expenses. The availability of RSA Scholarships is subject to continued RSA grant funding. Students with disabilities are encouraged to apply. The RSA Scholarships are awarded on a first come, first served competitive basis following the review of an applicant's RSA Scholarship Application, letters of recommendation (2), undergraduate transcript and other requested required documentation. Students are required to have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA (on a 4 point scale) for undergraduate academic course work. Students with less than a 3.0 GPA must earn 9 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 the RSA Scholarship. Students receiving a RSA Scholarship are subjected to having the funding withdrawn if 3 or more days of unexcused absences occur within any class, if more than two courses final result in grades of "C" or if the student's work performance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to be of significant poor quality (i.e., receiving a "D" or lower final grade) are subject to scholarship funds being withdrawn.**

Students receiving RSA Scholarships 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 or "related-agencies" with cooperative agreements with state agencies of vocational rehabilitation. In general, a Rehabilitation Counseling Program graduate or individual who do not complete the prescribed course of study after one year of successful enrollment must work (i.e., "Employment Payback") in a state agency of vocational rehabilitation or "related-agency" with cooperative agreements with 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 salaries paid by a qualifying employing agency as noted above is based upon the usual salary paid any rehabilitation counselor hired by the agency. It should be noted employment with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as a rehabilitation counselor meets "Employment Payback" requirements.

The agency work should begin within two years of completing or exiting the JSU Rehabilitation Counseling Program. Individuals who do not complete the employment requirements as noted above are subject to repayment of the RSA Scholarship funds, stipends and/or any additional funding such as travel funds with appropriate interest and fees as prescribed within the RSA Scholarship Agreement with the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration. RSA Scholarship recipients who failed to complete a year of coursework in the Rehabilitation Counseling Curriculum are subject to immediate repayments of RSA Scholarship funds to the U.S. Treasury as noted above. All RSA Scholarship recipients are required to complete a RSA Scholarship Agreement prior to disbursement of RSA Scholarship funds. For more information regarding RSA Scholarship contact Dr. Frank Giles, Director of the JSU Rehabilitation Counseling Program by emailing frank.L.giles@jsums.edu or by phoning 601-979-4188. A comprehensive list of agencies that meet "Employment Payback" is also available.