

**JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL, COMMUNITY AND REHABILITATION
REHABILITATION COUNSELING PROGRAM**

NATURE AND SCOPE

Jackson State University in cooperation 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 is accredited by the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE), which is the accrediting body for master's level rehabilitation counselor education programs. 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. Dion F, Porter, Associate Professor and Program Coordinator

(Ph.D., Southern Illinois University-Carbondale)
Certified Rehabilitation Counselor
Licensed Social Worker

Dr. Jean M. Farish, Professor and Chair SCRC
(Ph.D., Southern Illinois University-Carbondale)
Certified Rehabilitation Counselor

Dr. Frank L. Giles, Professor and Project Coordinator
(Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Certified Rehabilitation Counselor
Certified Case Manager
National Certified Counselor

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 27,000 rehabilitation counselors employed in the United States. It is estimated that over 50 million Americans have physical, mental, or psychological disabilities that restrict some of their life activities and 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 a 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.

EMPLOYMENT RATES AND SETTINGS

About 81% of program students are already employed once they enroll in the program. In looking at recent graduation data, the employment rate of recent graduates from the past three (3) years has been about 97%. Program students have been employed in various settings in the State of Mississippi and beyond such as; 1) Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), 2) Clinical and Mental Health Settings, 3) The Veterans Administration (VA), 4) Substance Abuse Treatment Centers and 5) Private For Profit and Non-Profit settings.

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION ELIGIABILITY

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. Program students are of course eligible to sit for the Rehabilitation Counseling Certification after completing a certain percentage of their program.

Program students are assessed at the end of their matriculation by a Comprehensive Examination that must be passed before graduation. Students may also sit for the CRC during the same time that they sit for the comprehensive examination since the study material is basically the same. Roughly 91% of all program students pass the Comprehensive Examination the first time that it is taken. Although the CRC examination is not a requirement for graduation, it is strongly encouraged as well as seeking State Licensure.

ADMISSION PROCEDURES

Applications for admission are considered for the fall semester 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. The University 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 college(s) to The 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

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

Application Deadline

March 15th of each Year of Spring Semester

Application Review Period by Faculty

Between March 2nd and May 1st of each year of the Spring semester

Candidates Status Notification Date

Candidates will be notified of their status no later than May 15th of each year of the Spring semester

Starting Semester for newly admitted Candidates

Either the 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 Services 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 Services to individuals who successfully complete 54 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
COUN 631 Social and Cultural Foundations	(3)	Spring/Fall

SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES

HOURS REQUIRED (21)

RHAB 523 Vocational Appraisal	(3)	Spring
RHAB 524 Vocational Evaluation	(3)	Summer/Fall
RHAB 535 Techniques of Counseling	(3)	Spring
RHAB 531 Case Management in Rehab	(3)	Summer/Fall
RHAB 519 Community Resources	(3)	Summer
RHAB 532 Vocational Placement	(3)	Spring
COUN 526 Group Dynamics	(3)	Spring/Summer

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

RHAB 577 Practicum in Rehabilitation

(100 Clock hours)

RHAB 579 Internship (600 clock hours)

(600 Clock hours)

HOURS REQUIRED (9)

(3) Fall

(6) Spring/Summer

CORE ELECTIVES

RHAB 533 Placement Laboratory

RHAB 576 Practicum in Placement

(3) Fall

(3) Summer

HOURS REQUIRED (9)

OUTSIDE ELECTIVES

RHAB 691 Seminar in Substance Abuse

*COUN 658 Marriage and Family Therapy

*COUN 611 Psychodiagnosis and Treatment

HOURS REQUIRED (3)

(3) Spring/Summer

(3) Spring/Summer

(3) Spring/Summer

TOTAL (57)

Note: Only 9 hours of electives are required. RHAB 533 and RHAB 576 must be taken along with one of the listed outside electives. COUN 658 & 611 are both required for LPC Licensure.

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.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND PROGRAM COSTS

The Estimated cost of the program is \$2, 994 for 9 credit hours or roughly \$18,000 for the entire program. A limited number of traineeships have been available to Rehabilitation Counseling Graduate students. The traineeships are provided by the Federal Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) have been available to qualified students, providing full or partial tuition (in the case of non- resident students) and a stipend for related academic expenses. The availability of traineeships is subject to continued RSA funding. Including summers, a student may receive funding for up to (4) semesters. In all cases, outside work shall be contingent upon approval of the program coordinator.

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 traineeship. **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 to at least 2 rehabilitation counseling students per year. These Fee-Waivers are in conjunction to the RSA scholarships that are offered by the program.

Students receiving traineeships must indicate an interest in the practice, administration, supervision, teaching, or research involving the rehabilitation of persons with physical, mental or emotional disabilities. 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 or agency with an approved contract with the state rehabilitation agency for two years for each academic year (Note: a academic year would also be equivalent to one summer session and one regular semester) which a traineeship was received. 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 Coordinator of the JSU Rehabilitation Counseling Program.

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 satisfactory complete practicum or internship requirements will be required to retake such courses or have training extended until competence is achieved.

REQUIRED CRADUATION FORMS FOR MATRICULATION

The Graduate School has developed four forms to be processed by graduate degree candidates. These forms may be obtained 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' 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) and filed within five days prior to Commencement. 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.

PROGRAM RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES

The Rehabilitation Counseling program at Jackson State University strives to not only promote an excellent rehabilitation training program, but to also seek to retain and graduate each and every student that is enrolls each year. The average enrollment rate each year for the past three (3) years has been 26 students per year and a total of 80 students. Out of the 80 students who were accepted, 96% of them have either graduated or will graduate this upcoming year. Each year, the program has an average of 27 students to graduate each academic year. The average time that it takes a full time student to complete the program is 2 years.

APPLICATIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

Rehabilitation Counseling Program
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