

Vocational Rehabilitation

Introduction

Master of Science Degree The Vocational Rehabilitation program is guided by its mission to prepare rehabilitation professionals who will assist and support individuals with disabilities during the rehabilitation process. Emphasis is given to the vocational, social, adjustment and independent living phase of rehabilitation. The program is designed to prepare personnel to assist individuals with disabilities to make and implement their own life choices so as to lead more satisfying lives. It emphasizes understanding vocational issues in order to use them as strategies to empower individuals with disabilities.

It is within the mission to provide programming for individuals preparing to enter professional-level rehabilitation positions as well as personnel currently employed but who wish to upgrade and maintain their professional skills. Four concentrations are currently available which (a) form a rehabilitation foundation; (b) provide opportunities for career advancement and development of leadership potential; and (c) provide a specialization within rehabilitation. These concentrations include rehabilitation counseling, rehabilitation leadership, vocational evaluation and school to work transition. At program completion, each student will (a) define the functional impacts of disabling conditions; (b) understand the process of coordinating community services to serve people who are disabled; (c) analyze jobs and career opportunities to assist in planning and/or developing rehabilitation services; (d) understand rehabilitation philosophy, trends and practices; and (e) apply research findings to improve services to people with disabilities. The goal of each concentration is to prepare rehabilitation professionals who have the knowledge, skills and experiences necessary to work effectively in the field. The concentration in rehabilitation counseling is accredited by the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE).

The master of science degree program in vocational rehabilitation is a 48-credit program. A maximum of six credits can be waived by the program director due to completion of equivalent graduate or undergraduate work with a grade of "B" or better. Both part-time and full-time students are accommodated through course scheduling, although the vocational evaluation concentration does require a one-semester, on-campus practical experience. Students may elect to complete more than one concentration by completing the prescribed course work. At least one elective is available for each student to pursue a personal interest area that will complement the established program. Each concentration includes learning experiences in professional settings as part of the 27-credit concentration. Students have the option to focus on a particular rehabilitation setting (*e.g., independent living, community-based programs, state agencies, proprietary agencies*).

Admission

A program-specific application (*obtained from the program director*) is required in addition to the Application for Admission to the Graduate School. In order to assure completion of the review process, the Graduate School and the vocational rehabilitation program applications, including all supporting documents, must be received six weeks prior to the start of the term for which admission is requested.

Entrance into the program requires the unanimous vote of approval by the Vocational Rehabilitation Admissions Committee. Approval will be dependent upon:

1. demonstrated potential for successful academic achievement at the graduate level;
2. interest in working with people with disabilities;
3. personal and social characteristics necessary to work with people with disabilities, such as personal and social maturity and a combination of patience, empathy and understanding;
4. ability to work independently;
5. ability to carry out professional responsibilities.

The decision for admission or denial of admission by the Vocational Rehabilitation Program Admissions Committee will be based on the criteria above with information obtained from records of undergraduate and/or other graduate academic attainment, letters of reference from a minimum of three persons who are familiar with the applicant in work or educational settings, information provided on the program application form, and other data and information received by the committee. The committee may require an interview in any case where information submitted is insufficient for rendering a decision.

To be admitted with full status to this program, the applicant must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college and have an overall grade point average of at least 2.75.

Students from a variety of educational backgrounds are eligible for admission. Applicants with degrees such as vocational rehabilitation, psychology, sociology, business, industrial technology, vocational education, special education, occupational therapy, physical therapy, communication disorders, recreational therapy and social work can find appropriate applications within the program. Although a specific educational background is not required, the applicant's transcripts will be evaluated to determine if deficiency work at the undergraduate level, or additional graduate work, will be required to earn a degree. Deficiency requirements may differ among the various concentrations.

Primary Evaluation Processes

The primary processes used to evaluate program and academic progress include course grades, research evaluation, certification of program completion, and the following program specific processes: program application; practicum evaluation; internship evaluation; degree candidacy; and intent to graduate.

Prior to the granting of degree candidacy, a preliminary oral examination is conducted by the Vocational Rehabilitation Program Retention Committee. The committee will evaluate (a) the acquisition of a knowledge base as identified in program and concentration objectives; (b) existence of interests, aptitudes and personality consistent with requirements for successful practice in rehabilitation; (c) demonstrated potential for successful practice in the field of rehabilitation; and (d) the meeting of all Graduate School requirements for degree candidacy. A copy of the committee procedures is available from the program director.

Requirements

The requirements for this degree include (a) completion of a minimum of 48 semester hours of graduate credit (a maximum of 6 credits may be waived, resulting in a 42-credit program); (b) an overall grade point average of 3.0 or better; (c) at least half of the credits must be in courses open only to graduate students-700 or 800 level; (d) a minimum grade of "B" or better in laboratory, practicum and internship courses; (e) approval for degree candidacy at the appropriate time; (f) completion of the professional core; and (g) a course distribution as outlined for the specific concentration.

Preparation in Research

3-10 credits

EDUC-740	Research Foundations <i>or</i>	
MFT-765	Research in Psychotherapy <i>or</i>	
PSYC-750	Principles of Program Evaluation <i>or</i>	
EDUC-742	Program Evaluation	3-4

Choose one of the following options:

REHAB-735	Problems in Vocational Rehabilitation <i>or</i>	
REHAB-770	Thesis in Vocational Rehabilitation	2-6

or

Comprehensive Exam: A student may choose to take a culminating comprehensive examination in lieu of completing a Plan B Problem or a Plan A Thesis.

Preparation Basic to Program

15 credits

REHAB-701	Foundations of Rehabilitation	3
REHAB-713	Aspects of Disability: Physical Disability	3
REHAB-714	Aspects of Disability: Cognitive Disability	3
REHAB-717	Occupational Analysis and Job Placement	3
REHAB-764	Case Coordination	3

Concentrations

Rehabilitation Counseling

27-30 credits

COUN-750	Counseling Theory	3
COUN-788	Counseling Process Lab <i>or</i>	
REHAB-708	Practicum in Rehabilitation Counseling	3
REHAB-620	Psychological Testing – People With Exceptional Needs	3
REHAB-723	Procedures of Vocational Evaluation	3
REHAB-783	Internship in Vocational Evaluation	6
REHAB-787	Internship in Rehabilitation Counseling	6
XXX-XXX	Approved Electives	3-6

Rehabilitation Leadership

27-30 credits

INMG-630	Employee Involvement and Work Teams	3
INMG-600	Organizational Leadership	3
PSYC-685	Recruitment and Selection of Human Resources	3
REHAB-602	Management of Nonprofit Organizations	3
REHAB-705	Practicum in Rehabilitation Leadership	3
REHAB-780	Administration in Vocational Rehabilitation <i>or</i>	
REHAB-688	Developing Collaborative Partnerships	2-3
REHAB-785	Internship – Rehabilitation Leadership	6
XXX-XXX	Approved Electives	4-7

Vocational Evaluation

27-30 credits

COUN-750	Counseling Theory	3
REHAB-620	Psychological Testing – People With Exceptional Needs	3
REHAB-670	Work Adjustment Services	3
REHAB-707	Practicum in Vocational Evaluation	4
REHAB-723	Procedures of Vocational Evaluation	3
REHAB-724	Laboratory in Vocational Evaluation	3
REHAB-783	Internship in Vocational Evaluation	6
XXX-XXX	Approved Electives	2-5

School to Work Transition

25-27 credits

CTE-502	Principles of Career/Technical Education	2
CTE-560	Coop Occupational Education Program	2
SCOUN-733	Career Development Process and Issues	3
EDUC-742	Program Evaluation	3
SPED-524	Curr and Inst: Career and Transition Education	3
SPED-528	Assessment for IEP/ITP	3
REHAB-688	Developing Collaborative Partnerships	2
REHAB-670	Work Adjustment Services	3
REHAB-723	Procedures of Vocational Evaluation	3
REHAB-798	Field Experience <i>or</i>	
REHAB-749	Coop Education Experience	1-12
XXX-XXX	Approved Electives	1-4

Other Requirements and Program Policies

1. Degree Without Concentration

Students applying to the master of science program in Vocational Rehabilitation without a specific concentration are required to submit their personal program objectives as part of the program application process. These will be used to determine if the program will be beneficial in helping students reach their objective and as an aid in developing the individual's program plan.

2. Program Policy for Waived Credits

A maximum of six credits can be waived by the program director due to completion of equivalent graduate or undergraduate work with a grade of "B" or better.

3. Program Policy for Electives

Elective course work must contribute to the objectives of the program and needs of its students.

4. Deficiency Course Work and Additional Admission

Requirement for the Rehabilitation Leadership Concentration

Undergraduate deficiency course work is required for the Rehabilitation Leadership concentration. The student is required to have course work in accounting, finance and marketing. A minimum of two years of paid work experience in rehabilitation services or in a leadership or management position is required of applicants to the Rehabilitation Leadership concentration.

5. Teaching Certification in the School to Work Transition Concentration

Additional courses may be taken for a teaching certificate in the School to Work Transition concentration. Some school districts prefer a certified or licensed teacher, depending on the state in which one works. A teaching certificate is recommended in the state of Wisconsin.

Sixty Credit Program

With the advice and approval of the program director, students wishing to complete a 60-credit M.S. in Vocational Rehabilitation will identify appropriate coursework that develops an emphasis that meets the students' goals.