

## ***UAB Rehabilitation Counseling*** **Prospective Student Information Packet**

### **Prospective Students ...**

Thank you for your interest in the Rehabilitation Counseling Concentration (RC) at UAB. The RC concentration is a part of the Counselor Education Program at UAB, which also offers concentrations in school and community counseling. The

**Mission of the Rehabilitation Counseling Concentration** is to prepare qualified professional Rehabilitation Counselors to work effectively and ethically with people with physical, mental, and/or emotional disabilities.

### **Goals:**

The goal of the Rehabilitation Counselor Concentration at UAB is to prepare competent practitioners to assist people with disabilities to improve their overall quality of life, reach their fullest capacity for independence, and achieve their maximum potential psychologically, socially, vocationally, and economically. The foundation of Rehabilitation Counseling is one of empowerment in which individuals exercise control over their own lives. Rehabilitation counseling focuses on the whole person, including physical, psychological and spiritual aspects, as well as family, social and work relationships.

The rehabilitation counselor needs advanced skills in interpersonal communications, counseling, career guidance, assessment procedures, case management, coordinating services, job development & placement, and an understanding of psychosocial and medical aspects of disability. Rehabilitation Counselors work closely with family members, and confer with a broad range of professionals, such as physicians, occupational therapists, physical therapists, audiologists, and other health professionals. The curricula of Graduate Programs in Rehabilitation Counseling are designed to help students develop these skills. The faculty of the Counseling Program at UAB is committed to graduating students who possess the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of a rehabilitation professional, are well prepared to pass the CRC (Certified Rehabilitation Counselor) Exam, and competent to enter the field of rehabilitation counseling.

### **Objectives of the Concentration:**

Toward meeting the mission and goals, the RC has the following objectives:

- To recruit and select qualified graduate students, with appropriate attention given to the inclusion of candidates from minority, women, disabled, and otherwise under represented populations
- To offer a graduate curriculum of didactic courses, practicum and other clinical experiences, and internships that reflect the preparation standards of the profession
- To prepare graduate level counselors with the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and philosophical orientation that facilitate their working effectively with diverse populations
- To prepare of professional counselors for a wide variety of educational and human service settings, both public and private
- To provide educational experiences for the facilitation of the personal and professional growth of students

- To network with community (public & private) agencies, schools, and other entities for planning and evaluation of the program related to the provision of experiential studies for counseling students
- To provide students with research skills germane to their levels of preparation and to instill a commitment to the pursuit of scholarly research
- To provide students with a sound base in professional ethics, as well as an understanding of ethical issues and application
- To develop student knowledge and appreciation of professional associations and understanding of the importance of active professional membership
- To assist graduates and employers in the identification of appropriate placement opportunities for graduates
- To gauge the mission of the program by developing and implementing planned procedures for the systematic evaluation of program outcomes,

The RCP master's program is 52 semester hours in length. Full-time students can expect to complete the program in 2.5 academic years (5 semesters). The curriculum provides both didactic and experiential learning and culminates in a 600 hour internship under the Supervision of a practicing rehabilitation counselor. Our program is accredited nationally by the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE). Students completing the RC curriculum are eligible to take the national examination to become a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC).

### **Admissions Criteria**

Admission to the RC includes the following:

- a completed graduate application
- copies of official transcripts from other academic study
- 3 favorable letters of recommendation
- a reasonable statement of one's goal and purpose in pursuing graduate study
- a GPA of 3.0 or higher (on a 4.0 scale)
- a score of 1000 or higher on the GRE, or 50 or higher on the MAT
- favorable committee ratings on the admission interview

Once the Graduate School has received all materials required for consideration for admissions, your application will be forwarded to the UAB Counselor Education Program for review and consideration for an admissions interview. You may be eligible for unconditional admission if your application meets the minimal standards associated with all of the criteria described above.

You may be eligible for conditional admission if you do not fully meet the GPA or admission test score requirements. A decision to admit you conditionally into the program will be based on a number of factors, including the combination of GPA and admission test scores, the strength of your letters of recommendation, your goals, your interview, and previous work experience. Students admitted conditionally into the program will be considered for unconditional status if they maintain a "B" average during their initial 12 hours of study. Please refer to the Graduate Catalog for a full review of admissions criteria.

## **Admissions**

Decisions to admit students into the RC are made once each semester. Please attend to the following dates to allow adequate time for your application to be reviewed for consideration of an admissions interview:

- Students desiring Fall enrollment - all materials to the Graduate School by June 1
- Students desiring Spring enrollment - all materials to the Graduate School by October 1
- Students desiring Summer enrollment - all materials to the Graduate School by March 1

Once your application materials have been reviewed and you are found to be otherwise qualified for admissions, you will be contacted to schedule an interview with program faculty. Interviews are generally scheduled within 4 to 6 weeks of the application deadlines. If accepted into the program, you will be notified by mail and assigned an advisor. It is important that you contact your advisor as soon as possible to plan your program of study.

## **Disability Support Services**

Students with disabilities may register with the UAB Disability Support Services (DSS) office to procure reasonable accommodations for their full participation classroom and campus activities. You may contact DSS by calling 934-4205, or visiting the DSS office at 516 Hill University Center. Students with disabilities are encouraged to consider the rehabilitation counseling concentration as a career option.

## **Student Evaluation**

In addition to evaluations that occur as part of regularly scheduled courses, all students in the RC are evaluated once each semester by the faculty of the Counselor Education Program. This review encompasses a broad scope of activities including professional dispositions, ethical behavior, and skills. This evaluation reflects faculty commitment to insure competent services to clients and avoid difficulties that may become professional issues at a later time. While rare, our commitment to the integrity of the program and its reputation occasionally leads to decisions to restrict or even discontinue a student's enrollment in the program. This occurs only after careful attempts have been made to assist the student in correcting difficulties that may present the potential for unsatisfactory care and service to clients. Therefore, selection and retention for students in the RC is a sustained process intended to insure the best possible education for our students and the best possible service to their clients.

## **Comprehensive Examination**

In order to successfully demonstrate that you have acquired basic knowledge and skills as a counselor all students are required to successfully pass the [Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination](#) (CPCE) prior to their practicum placement. Students must register no later than midterm of the semester prior to the when the test is scheduled. In addition, students must complete all [CACREP](#) core courses (Area 1) prior to taking the examination.

The CPCE is comprised of 160 multiple-choice questions that test the student's knowledge of the 8 CACREP areas including:

1. Human Growth and Development
2. Social and Cultural Foundations
3. Helping Relationships
4. Group Work
5. Career and Lifestyle Development
6. Appraisal
7. Research and Program Evaluation
8. Professional Orientation and Ethics

Comprehensive examinations are scheduled each fall, spring, and summer terms. Students will be informed of the room and time of the examination and are required to bring identification and a check for \$40 made out to the Center for Credentialing and Education (CCE) in order to sit for the test.

Additionally, a comprehensive examination designed to measure competencies specific to rehabilitation counseling beyond the general counseling domain will be administered the semester prior to enrolling in practicum. This will be an exam based upon a case-study requiring students to evaluate, plan, and problem-solve toward a successful rehabilitation outcome. Students are informed of their comprehensive exams in the *Prospective Student Information Packet* and during the *New Student Orientation*. Dates for their exams are scheduled within their *Plan of Study*.

### **Application to the Graduate School**

To request an application and catalog from the Graduate School contact:

UAB Graduate School  
Hill University Center, Room 511  
1530 3RD AVE S  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35294-1150  
205-934-8227  
<http://main.uab.edu/show.asp?durki=1183>

### **Additional Information**

To learn more about the RC at UAB contact:

Barry Stephens, Ph.D., CRC  
C.O.R.E. Coordinator and Assistant Professor  
The University of Alabama at Birmingham  
School of Education Building, Suite 152  
901 13th Street South  
Birmingham, AL 35294-1250  
205-934-3701 or 205-996-7907  
FAX 205-934-3702  
[BarryStephens@uab.edu](mailto:BarryStephens@uab.edu)

Additional Contact Information:

UAB Counselor Education Program 205-934-3701  
University Testing Service Office  
205-934-3704

Hill University Center, Room 470  
Office of Student Financial Aid  
Hill University Center, Room 317  
1400 University Blvd  
Birmingham, Alabama 35294-1150  
205-934-8223 [www.uab.edu/studentacct](http://www.uab.edu/studentacct)

Office of Disability Support Services  
205-934-4205 TTD 205-934-4248 FAX 205-934-8170  
Hill University Center, Room 516

Attachments:

- RCP Brochure
- RCP Program of Study