

Winston-Salem State University RSA Scholars Program



School of Education and Human Performance
Department of Educational Leadership, Counseling, and Professional Studies
Rehabilitation Counseling Program

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Overview

The purpose of the RSA Scholars Program is to increase the number of qualified rehabilitation counselors with specialized training in rural vocational rehabilitation counseling and working with deaf and hard of hearing population. The RSA Scholars Program consist of three Rehabilitation Services grants for Department of Education: vocational rural rehabilitation (60 credit masters in rehabilitation counseling emphasis on VR public sector), deaf and hard hearing (60 credit masters in rehabilitation counseling emphasis on deaf and hearing), transition (60 credit masters in rehabilitation counseling with emphasis on transition).

Program components include: (1) a scholarship program to provide incentives for individuals pursuing employment with vocational rehabilitation as rehabilitation counselors in rural vocational rehabilitation setting (RSA Rural) or deaf and hard of hearing (RSA Deaf) or working with transition population; (2) knowledge and skills specific to rural rehabilitation counseling, deaf and hard of hearing, or transition in State agencies; (3) required practicum/internship in a state vocational rehabilitation setting in rural VR setting, deaf or hard of hearing caseload, or transition caseload; and (4) knowledge and skills specific to working individual who are deaf and hard of hearing (RSA Deaf), transition population or rural vocational rehabilitation clients.

All coursework and program options will be available in distance education format with scholarship options for both in-state and out-of-state students. The recruitment program targets undergraduate seniors who are interested in working with persons with severe disabilities in rural vocational rehabilitation setting, deaf and hard of hearing, transition and employees of vocational rehabilitation who require a master's degree to enhance their skills and to advance their careers within the public vocational rehabilitation sector in areas of rural VR, deaf and hard of hearing or transition.

The scholars program has been established to provide scholarships and stipends to support students who make a commitment to working for state vocational rehabilitation agency or vendor of state vocational rehabilitation. This financial aid component covers all tuition and provides an additional monthly stipend for full-time students to assist with other expenses. The stipend amounts based on the amount of funds available from the RSA grants. All scholarship recipients are required to fill out a FASA form to receive any tuition.

Scholarship recipients are required to fulfill employment obligation or payback the received support for rural vocational rehabilitation and deaf and hard of hearing options. The employment obligation entails working in a state vocational rehabilitation agencies or state vocational rehabilitation vendor serving individuals with severe disabilities who live in rural area or deaf and hard of hearing population. Scholarship recipients on Deaf and Rural VR grant will serve two years working for VR for each academic year of support was received.

Lastly, the Rehabilitation Counseling Program is increasing the availability of coursework through distance education modalities to make the program more accessible

to workers already residing in rural areas of the state, enabling them to enhance their qualifications for working with persons with disabilities. Activities are centered on the use of the Internet, which minimizes cost and maximizes accessibility.

Scholarship Details

Funds for incentive scholarship program are being monitored by U.S. Department of Education Rehabilitation Services Administration. Monies are available to cover tuition costs for students admitted into the rehabilitation master's degree program at the Winston Salem State University who are willing to commit to working individuals with severe disabilities. Funding is available to support four full-time students who are in good standing, but the exact number of scholarships awarded each semester depends on the mix of eligible full- and part-time scholars. In addition to covering tuition, monthly stipend is provided to scholarship recipients to assist them with other expenses. Based on availability for scholarship recipients is reimbursement of student expenses stemming from travel and attendance at rehabilitation educational conferences. It should be noted that U.S. Department of Education's commitment of funding is for five year period beginning the May 2008 (Rural VR grant), August 2008 (Deaf) and October 2010 (Transition). Although the project may be refunded at the end of this initial period, there is no guarantee. There is no financial means test used in determining eligibility for the scholarships. Requirements include meeting the master's degree program admission requirements and maintaining academic standing consistent with the Program's policies after enrollment.

Applicants Residency Requirements

All potential applicants for scholarships offered in this program must meet the following citizenship/residency requirements set forth by the U.S. Government:

They:

- (1) must be a U.S. citizen or national; or
- (2) a permanent resident of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; or

Shall confirm from documentation issued to the individual by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service that he or she

- (1) is a lawful permanent resident of the United States; or
- (2) is in the United States for other than a temporary purpose with the intention of becoming citizen or permanent resident

Rehabilitation Counseling Program Admission Criteria

Several criteria are used in determining qualification for admission. Factors include undergraduate grade point average (GPA) and GRE scores, relevant experience (preference will be given to VR employees), three letters of reference, and personal attributes ascertained through an interview. Applicants are ranked according to academic potential and relevant background/experience. Only those with indication of strong academic and career potential are invited for interviews. During the interview, faculty then rate applicants' personal qualifications. Those with the highest combined scores are admitted. Because the number of students who can be accommodated in the Program is limited, admission is on a competitive basis. Therefore, invitation to the interview session is not indication of acceptance. Applicants are notified of the admission review outcome in writing following completion of the interviews.

Some applicants not offered admission will be informed that they are an alternate list and may be offered an appointment if one of the admitted applicants cancels enrollment prior to the beginning of the Fall semester.

Scholars Selection

Once it is determined that the criteria for admission to basic master's degree program in rehabilitation counseling have been met, RSA Scholars Program applicants undergo a second level screening to determine their appropriateness for the scholarship program. Students are asked to fill out RSA scholarship application and submit a one-page letter indicating how this scholarship will assist you in obtaining your professional goals as they relate to VR. Those considered appropriate are ranked according to all the accumulated data. Scholarships are then awarded based on ranking. Scholarship recipients are notified of the outcome of the screening process following the second level review.

Scholars Progress and Academic Standing

The academic performance of award recipients is monitored by the Rehabilitation Counseling Program faculty. Grades are reviewed at regular weekly faculty meetings following the mid-semester and final exam periods of each semester. The scholars' faculty advisor is responsible for monitoring academic performance and summarizing academic status at the review meetings.

All students are expected to maintain at least a "B" (3.0) average in their course work in accordance with University graduate student policies and academic progress on portfolio project. Additionally, the University registrar's office monitors recorded grades and notifies the Program immediately when any of its students receive a "C" or lower grade, providing a second check. Any student receiving a grade of F will be suspended from the program.

If a student has a GPA lower than a "C" the student will be put on probation and will not be eligible for RSA scholarship. If a student decides to withdrawal from all classes, they must notify advisor in writing in advanced. Student will also be asked to refund tuition and stipend awards. Additional standards, policies and procedures are contained in the regular Student Handbook issued by the Rehabilitation Counseling Program.

Degree Description

The Program offers a Master of Rehabilitation Counseling (M.R.C.) Degree, which is officially awarded by the Winston Salem State University School of Education and Human Performance. The MSRC is a 60 credit-hour professional degree and does not require a thesis but does require research project.

Thirty nine of the hours consist of classroom-based course work directed at knowledge and skill development. Nine of these credit hours of study consist of elective courses selected on the basis of student interest and relevance to career objectives.

The remaining 12 hours include a clinical practicum and internship that consist of field placements and University-based seminars. These activities are intended to facilitate the development and enhancement of the spectrum of counseling activities within the context of real practice settings, assuring adequate competency to fulfill appropriate professional roles upon graduation.

The program is accredited by the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE). The programs comprehensive exam is Certified Rehabilitation Counselor exam which is national certification exam for rehabilitation counselors. Students successfully completing the degree requirements are eligible to take appropriate state licensure and national certification exams, which are prerequisites to becoming a Licensed Professional Counselor (L.P.C.) and a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (C.R.C.) It is pointed out that successful completion for the degree program is only the first step in becoming credentialed. Other requirements, for example, supervised work experience, vary with each credentialing organization.

Program Accreditation

The Program is in fully candidate by Council on Rehabilitation Education (2010-2019). CORE accredits graduate programs in Rehabilitation Counselor Education (RCE). CORE accreditation is to promote the effective delivery of rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities by promoting and fostering continuing review and improvement of master's degree level RCE Programs.

Rehabilitation Counseling Program Curriculum

The M.R.C. is a 60 credit-hour professional degree

<p>First Semester (Fall)</p> <p>REH 5301 Foundations 3 credits EDU 6305 Statistics 3 credits REH 5306 Medical Aspects – 3 credits Elective - 3 credits</p> <p>12 credits</p>	<p>Second Semester (Spring)</p> <p>REH 5302 Theories & Techniques REH 5304 Vocational Assessment REH 6304 Human Growth & Develop REH 6307 Psychosocial Aspects</p> <p>12 credits</p>
<p>Third Semester (Summer)</p> <p>REH 5303 Group Counseling – 3 credits REH 6302 Planning – 3 credits Elective – 3 credits</p> <p>9 credits</p>	<p>Fourth Semester (Fall)</p> <p>REH 6306 Research Methods – 3 credits REH 5308 Practicum (100) – 3 credits REH 6301 Vocational Placement 3 credits REH 5309 Ethics & Professional – 3 credits</p> <p>12 credits</p>
<p>Fifth Semester (Spring)</p> <p>REH 6901 Internship (600) – 9 credits REH 6310/6311 Project/Thesis – 3 credits Elective – 3 credits <i>Comprehensive Final Exam/CRC</i></p> <p>15 credits</p>	

Program Electives (Emphasis Areas)

Table 2. *Rural VR Emphasis*

Course	Credit Hours	Funding /Instructor	Course Offering
REH 5310 Culture and Disability	3	Rural VR Grant	Spring
REH 5311 Introduction to Public VR	3	Rural VR Grant	Summer 2011
REH 5312 Rural Vocational Rehabilitation	3	Rural VR Grant	Summer 2012
	9 credits		

Table 3. *School to Work Transition Emphasis*

Course	Credit Hours	Funding /Instructor	Course Offerings
REH 5313 Introduction to School to Work Transition	3	Transition Grant	Fall 2011
REH 6312 Job Placement in Transition Environment	3	Transition VR Grant	Spring 2012
REH 6313 Vocational Assessment with Transition Caseload (vocational evaluation)	3	Transition Grant	Spring 2012
REH 6314 Family Intervention & Systems Course	3	Transition Grant	Summer 2012
REH 5310 Culture & Disability	3	Rural VR Grant	Spring 2012
	9-15 credits		

Table 4. Deaf and Hard of Hearing VR Emphasis

Course	Credit Hours	Funding /Instructor	Course Offering
REH 5314 Counseling Persons who are Deaf & Hard of Hearing	3	Deaf Grant	Fall 2011
REH 6313 Vocational Evaluation for Deaf and hard of Hearing (vocational evaluation)	3	Deaf Grant	Spring 2012
REH 6316 Psychosocial & Cultural Aspect of Hearing Loss	3	Deaf Grant	Summer 2011
REH 6317 Aural Rehabilitation and Assistive Devices	3	Deaf Grant	Spring 2012
REH 5310 Culture & Disability	3	Rural VR Grant	Spring 2012

	9-15 credits		
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Table 4. Vocational Evaluation Emphasis

Course	Credit Hours	Funding /Instructor	Course Offering
REH 5315 Advance Vocational Evaluation	3		Fall 2011
REH 6315 Vocational Evaluation for Deaf and hard of Hearing (vocational evaluation)	3	Deaf Grant	Spring 2012
REH 6313 Vocational Assessment with Transition Caseload (vocational evaluation)	3	Transition Grant	Spring 2012
REH 5310 Culture & Disability	3	Rural VR Grant	Spring 2012
	9-12 credits		

Field Experience

The rehabilitation counseling practicum and internship experiences provide the students opportunity to develop and refine their counseling skills. They consist of a coordinated set of field placements designed to progressively engage students in counseling practice beginning with basic interviewing and organizational activities and culminating in the assumption of the full range of responsibilities typically carried out by rehabilitation counselors. The field experiences are served under dual supervision of Program-approved field supervisor and Program faculty supervisor.

Ordinarily, students will complete both their practicum and internship experiences at the same site. Attempts will be made to place students at Program approved sites consistent with their interest or career objectives. However, a "perfect" match is not always possible because of the availability of a limited number of sites or other circumstances. It is emphasized that the primary purpose of the experience is development of basic rehabilitation counseling skills. That can be accomplished at all approved sites.

Practicum Policies

Prior to enrolling in Practicum, students must obtain professional liability insurance and attend fieldwork orientation. This can be purchased through professional counseling associations (HPSO), which offer insurance to students at nominal rates. In order to qualify for the insurance, however, students must be a member of the sponsoring professional organization. Students not providing evidence of insurance will not be permitted to enroll in practicum or internship.

Registration, Advising, and Financial Procedures

Each semester, RCP faculty meets to review the availability for RSA scholarship funds and graduate assistantships in the program or department, or other sources of funding, and clarify the amount each student is eligible for in tuition and stipend assistance for the academic year. The RC Program will make a list to be sent to all advisors and to the program assistant outlining the students and the tuition and stipend awards for the year.

The advisor will meet with the student prior to each semester for registration, to decide on courses, and to complete the plan of study. The advisor will give each student an advising pin for the term they are registering. The RC program director would also sign, as a check step to monitor the funds available from RSA for the semester.

Other General Advising Policies Related to Funding

Students who are eligible for RSA scholarship must register for minimum credits each fall and spring semester. This may be modified to registering for less than 6 credits individual, case by case basis (student employed FT, or those with disabilities needing some accommodation).

In addition, all out of state students receiving any form of financial assistance from the department are asked to start the process of preparing for in state status as soon as possible, if possible. (i.e., establishing an address in North Carolina, registering car, applying for driver's license).

Prior to registering for classes, all students must check in banner to make sure they have no holds and have completed FAFSA form. It will be the students' responsibility to remove the holds and complete the FAFSA for current year. **You will not receive any tuition or stipend check if you have a prior hold or have not complete FAFSA form.**

RSA scholarships will not pay for health insurance only tuition, fees and stipend.

Possible Employers

Possible employers are state vocational rehabilitation agency, non profit rehabilitation agency, and federal agencies that serve individuals with disabilities. If you are interested in program that is not here please contact your advisor. Examples of possible employers are listed below:

State of North Carolina

- North Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation
- North Carolina Department of Mental Health
- North Carolina Blind Services
- North Carolina Independent Living Council (CILs)

Other States, Countries and Government Agencies

- Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (any state or U.S. territories)
- Department of Veteran Affairs
- Non profit rehabilitation agencies (serving individuals with disabilities)
- Higher Education (teaching in rehabilitation counseling program or community college with rehabilitation services program)