Letter from the Coordinator

Welcome to the UK Rehabilitation Counseling Program. We are pleased to have this opportunity to share information about our program with you. The UK Rehabilitation Counseling Program is located on the beautiful campus of the University of Kentucky within the College of Education in the Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation Counseling. The Program is fully accredited by the Council On Rehabilitation Education (CORE).

Our students benefit from our exceptional and nationally recognized faculty, who bring diverse professional backgrounds, research interests, and areas of expertise to the educational experience. We encourage our students to participate fully in the wide range of professional, educational, and research opportunities that we offer. Our students also benefit from our strong ties to the local, state, and national rehabilitation community; our relationship with the University of Kentucky's Human Development Institute, and many of the other University of Kentucky schools, colleges, departments, and programs.

I encourage you to visit our website at www.uky.edu/education/EDS/RC.html to explore our many opportunities for student funding and financial support, and to learn more about the ways our program can help you to achieve your professional goals in the counseling profession.

Our program allows students to attain their Masters degree in 16-months, and many exciting career opportunities are available to our graduates. Rehabilitation Counseling is a growing profession and the need for trained rehabilitation personnel has never been greater. The Graduate Rehabilitation Counseling Program at the University of Kentucky is committed to providing the highest quality rehabilitation counselor education and promoting professional excellence in rehabilitation counseling.

I look forward to hearing from you to discuss any questions that you might have.

Malachy Bishop, Ph.D., CRC

About the Rehabilitation Counseling Profession and Program

Rehabilitation Counseling is a career in which you can make a difference. Rehabilitation counselors are professional counselors who specialize in issues related to disability and working with persons with a disability across the lifespan. This includes persons with physical and cognitive disabilities, mental health or substance abuse problems, and chronic illnesses.

Rehabilitation Counseling is an expanding profession and qualified Rehabilitation Counselors are in great demand. Graduates of the UK Rehabilitation Counseling Program are employed in a wide range of public and private rehabilitation settings including state agencies, community rehabilitation and mental health programs, hospitals and allied health settings, schools, colleges and universities, and private businesses. Certified Rehabilitation Counselors are practicing in such areas as mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, geriatric rehabilitation, medical/allied health case management, employee assistance programs, disability management, and private practice/consultation.

The UK Rehabilitation Counseling Program was initially established at UK in 1962. The program is fully accredited by the Council on Rehabilitation Education, and is a member of the National Council on Rehabilitation Education. The program is the only master's level rehabilitation counselor education...
About the Rehabilitation Counseling Profession and

program in the Commonwealth. A doctoral program was established in 2003 in collaboration with the doctoral program in Special Education.

The masters program is 57-60 credit hours. This includes 12 credit hours of field experiences. In recent years, approximately 85 students are enrolled in the Program at any time, including full-time campus students and students enrolled in the web-based distance education program. Our low faculty-student ratio and small course sizes allow us to provide personal attention to the goals and educational program of each student. Courses are offered via on-campus and web-based instruction. Classes on campus are offered in the late afternoon and early evening to encourage both full and part-time enrollment.

Our Students and Graduates

Our graduates are employed in a wide variety of settings working with persons with disabilities, including state rehabilitation agencies, rehabilitation facilities, proprietary and forensic rehabilitation settings, schools and universities, and hospitals or other medical-related settings.

The majority of our students are Kentucky natives. Many come from Louisville, Lexington, and southeastern Kentucky. However, in recent years we have welcomed students from 20 states throughout the U.S., including California, Virginia, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, New Jersey, Florida, North Carolina, and others.

Internship students have the opportunity to do field work at exemplary facilities within the Lexington area, the state of Kentucky, and out of state. In recent years students have done Internships in Florida, New York, California, Colorado, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Illinois and South Carolina. Our students’ success rate for passing the national certification exam on their first attempt is well above the national average. Students who complete 60-credits are eligible to sit for the Licensed Professional Counselor examination in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

In the past 5 years UK Rehabilitation Counselor Education Program Students have published research in many professional journals, including the Journal of Rehabilitation, Epilepsy & Behavior, and The Rehabilitation Professional, and our students have presented research at state and national conferences.

Financial Support

Funding to support students in the program is available through a grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration. Funding is also available through program, College of Education, and University of Kentucky scholarships, faculty research projects, and research endowments.

"The UK Rehabilitation Counseling Program has been ranked in the top 20 among the over 90 programs accredited by the Council on Rehabilitation Education in rankings published by U.S. News & World Report, 2007"
Program News

Students who complete 60-credits are eligible to sit for the Licensed Professional Counselor examination in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

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Student News

Lindsey Mitchell, a current student in the Program has had her proposal accepted to present her research at the National Rehabilitation Counseling Association in October, 2007. The title of her presentation: "Quality of Life in patients with Multiple Sclerosis when examining physical activity, social relationships, and family support."

Christina Espinosa, a student and president of the student association, received the 2007 Student Writing Award from the Kentucky Rehabilitation Association. She received her award at the association’s annual conference in July for her paper titled "My Approach to Job Placement" which focused on the person-centered approach she takes while working with individuals who live with physical, psychological, social or cognitive impairments.
I am committed to maintaining the Program's focus on research and writing related to effective rehabilitation practices and disability. I believe that it is important to share our efforts with you, and invite your feedback. Below is an overview of some of our current projects:

Debra Harley is chair of CRC Study Guide Development Committee of the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification. Development of the study guide is the first official guide to be produced by CRCC.

Dr. Harley and Dr. Bishop are submitting a proposal for a special issue of Rehabilitation Education on the new CORE standards.

Malachy Bishop has received a research grant from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society to study adherence to disease-modifying therapies and self-management among adults with multiple sclerosis. Also, along with a colleague from Florida Atlantic University, Michael Frain, Dr. Bishop has received the first CRCC Research Grant for their project titled "An Investigation of CRC's Role in the Return to Work of Military Reservists." They will be studying the issues faced by reservists returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with a disability, the extent of Rehabilitation Counselors' knowledge of these issues, and the role of Rehabilitation Counselors in providing effective rehabilitation counseling. These researchers are also currently applying for a Department of Defense Grant to study the neurocognitive predictors of PTSD among military personnel.

Sonja Feist-Price is continuing her research efforts in HIV prevention among high-risk populations, and developing culturally relevant mental health treatment strategies for men who are survivors of sexual abuse. As a result of her disaster response work done with Hurricane Katrina survivors in New Orleans, she is the new Disaster Response Network Chairperson for the Kentucky Psychological Association.

Dr. Jackie Rogers is actively engaged in developing professional development courses and writing a long-term training grant for the Distance Learning Program.

Dr. Kathy Sheppard-Jones is coordinating the Human Development Institute's certificate in developmental disabilities and has completed several research projects related to the experiences and quality of life of individuals with developmental disabilities in Kentucky.