Rehabilitation and Counselor Education, M.A.

Maintaining Good Standing

M.A. students in the Department of Rehabilitation and Counselor Education must meet the following standards in order to remain in their degree programs and advance to candidacy and remain a candidate for a degree:

- maintain a g.p.a. of at least 3.00;
- successfully complete practicums and internships;
- maintain professional behavior consistent with the ACA Code of Ethics (American Counseling Association) and any additional code of professional ethics adhered to in any agency in which a student completes a practicum or internship; and
- demonstrate progress toward the degree through successful completion of semester hours specified in the curriculum plan and active registration each session (exceptions may be approved by the advisor).

Each student's academic and professional progress is reviewed annually. A written report is provided to the student and a copy is placed in the student's department file.

Probational Status

Students who earn a cumulative g.p.a. lower than 3.00 are placed on probational status and are notified in writing. Students on probational status have two consecutive sessions to raise their grade-point average to the established standard. If that requirement is not met, a student may be removed from the program. Students are allowed one probational status during their program of study.

Standards

Upon completing a degree in the department, students are evaluated and are expected to have awareness, knowledge, and skills in the following areas:

- current definitions, professional standards, and appropriate professional practices regarding multiculturalism;
- what it means to be a multiculturally competent helping professional;
- integration of feedback into practice and professionalism in interpersonal interactions;
- personal limitations and strengths that could ultimately support or harm a client or student; and
- a personal plan for future practice in the field regarding multicultural relationships.

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

The Master of Arts program in rehabilitation and counselor education with a clinical mental health counseling subprogram requires a minimum of 60 s.h. of graduate credit. Full-time students can complete the program in approximately 20 months (four semesters). The program prepares professional counselors to provide assistance with psychological wellness through flexible, consumer-oriented therapy to individuals experiencing various problems in living, including mental disorders and substance abuse. They combine traditional psychotherapy with a practical, problem-solving approach that creates a dynamic efficient path for change and problem resolution.

Clinical mental health counselors work in a variety of settings, including public government agencies; private practice; community mental health agencies; managed behavioral health care organizations; integrated delivery systems; hospitals, including the Veteran’s Administration; employee assistance programs; and substance abuse treatment centers. They provide interventions designed to help individuals with their immediate needs such as assessment and diagnosis, psychotherapy, treatment planning, brief and solution-focused therapy, alcoholism and substance abuse treatment, psychoeducational and prevention, and crisis management.

The M.A. program in clinical mental health counseling is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). Graduates of the program are eligible for certification by the National Board for Certified Counselors. By completing the program's course work, students also complete the courses they must take in order to apply for licensure as mental health counselors in Iowa.

The curriculum blends academic work with supervised clinical experiences. Students take two semesters of practicum and one semester of internship concurrently with academic courses. The program concludes with a full-time internship (40 hours per week) during a spring semester. Students are assigned to mental health agencies or facilities that meet CACREP accreditation standards and that have programs or clientele who match a student's interests and educational objectives. Clinical placements require criminal background checks. Supervised practicums, internships, and comprehensive examinations are not offered during summer sessions.

The M.A. in rehabilitation and counselor education with a clinical mental health counseling subprogram requires the following work.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RCE:5202</td>
<td>Introduction to Group Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCE:5203</td>
<td>Career Development</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCE:5221</td>
<td>Theories of Counseling and Human Development Across the Life Span</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCE:5241</td>
<td>Introduction to Clinical Mental Health Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCE:5247</td>
<td>Medical and Psychosocial Aspects of Disability Across the Developmental Life Span</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCE:5248</td>
<td>Diagnosis and Treatment Planning for Traditional, Vulnerable, and Special Populations in Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCE:5249</td>
<td>Psychopathology, Psychiatric Rehabilitation, and Emerging Approaches in Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCE:5250</td>
<td>Multiculturalism in Helping Professions</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCE:5254</td>
<td>Assessment and Appraisal</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCE:5270</td>
<td>Issues and Ethics in Counseling</td>
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</table>
They provide interventions designed to help persons with compensation and insurance rehabilitation agencies. From school to work programs, and private for-profit worker's employment, psychiatric rehabilitation programs, transition community-based rehabilitation centers and supported rehabilitation programs, independent living centers, rehabilitation programs and Veterans Affairs vocational including public agencies such as state vocational rehabilitation counselors work in a variety of settings, who encounter barriers in meeting their own functional needs. Development to persons with disabilities and other individuals employment, independent living, and personal or economic counselors to provide assistance in psychological wellness, students can complete the program in approximately 20 education with a rehabilitation counseling subprogram. The Master of Arts program in rehabilitation and counselor education, with a rehabilitation counseling subprogram requires the following work.

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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCE:5242</td>
<td>Introduction to Rehabilitation Counseling and Case Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCE:5247</td>
<td>Medical and Psychosocial Aspects of Disability Across the Developmental Life Span</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCE:5249</td>
<td>Psychopathology, Psychiatric Rehabilitation, and Emerging Approaches in Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCE:5250</td>
<td>Multiculturalism in Helping Professions</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCE:5253</td>
<td>Forensic Rehabilitation</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCE:5254</td>
<td>Assessment and Appraisal</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCE:5270</td>
<td>Issues and Ethics in Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCE:5279</td>
<td>Microskills for Rehabilitation Counseling</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCE:6341</td>
<td>Occupational Information, Job Development, and Job Placement</td>
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<td>RCE:6346</td>
<td>Practicum in Rehabilitation Counseling</td>
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<td>RCE:6347</td>
<td>Internship in Rehabilitation Counseling</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCE:6500</td>
<td>Research Methods in Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
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Total Hours 60

Comprehensive Examination

The comprehensive examination consists of two exams totaling six hours: a three-hour departmental comprehensive examination and a three-hour written examination on the process and practice of clinical mental health counseling. Exams are offered only during fall and spring semesters.

Admission

Applicants must meet the department's general admission requirements. They should have a good academic record and relevant experiences. No specific undergraduate major area of study is required for the M.A. program, but a major in one of the social sciences is considered good preparation. Postbaccalaureate work and volunteer experiences relevant to the field of mental health counseling is preferred. The program encourages applications from persons traditionally underrepresented in the field, particularly those with a disability and/or members of minority or ethnic groups. A personal interview is required, either in person or by telephone.

Applications for full-time study are accepted for fall semester entry; applications for full-time study are reviewed beginning March 1. Applications for part-time study are accepted for fall and spring semesters and are considered when class space permits.

Students pursue a sequenced plan of study that begins in the fall semester. Although students may be admitted for any semester, the program highly recommends that full-time students begin in the fall.

Rehabilitation Counseling

The Master of Arts program in rehabilitation and counselor education with a rehabilitation counseling subprogram requires a minimum of 60 s.h. of graduate credit. Full-time students can complete the program in approximately 20 months (four semesters). The program prepares professional counselors to provide assistance in psychological wellness, employment, independent living, and personal or economic development to persons with disabilities and other individuals who encounter barriers in meeting their own functional needs.

Rehabilitation counselors work in a variety of settings, including public agencies such as state vocational rehabilitation programs and Veterans Affairs vocational rehabilitation programs, independent living centers, community-based rehabilitation centers and supported employment, psychiatric rehabilitation programs, transition from school to work programs, and private for-profit worker’s compensation and insurance rehabilitation agencies. They provide interventions designed to help persons with disabilities adapt to the demands of their environments. They also prepare the environments to accommodate an individual's needs. Assessment, personal and vocational counseling, development of rehabilitation and treatment plans, case management, service coordination, psychosocial adjustment, job development, placement, and follow-up are typical services that rehabilitation and mental health counselors provide.

The M.A. program in rehabilitation counseling is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). Graduates of the program are eligible for certification by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC). The curriculum blends academic work with supervised clinical experiences. Students take one semester of practicum and one semester of internship concurrently with academic courses. The program concludes with a full-time internship (40 hours per week) during a spring semester. Students are assigned to rehabilitation agencies or facilities that meet CACREP accreditation standards and that have programs or clientele who match a student's interests and educational objectives. Clinical placements require criminal background checks. Supervised practicums, internships, and comprehensive examinations are not offered during summer sessions.

The M.A. in rehabilitation and counselor education with a rehabilitation counseling subprogram requires the following work.
Students who are not licensed teachers must complete a background check the semester before they enroll in the practicum. Exams are offered only during fall and spring semesters.

**Admission**

Applicants must meet the department's general admission requirements. They should have a good academic record and relevant experience such as assisting individuals with disabilities. No specific undergraduate major area of study is required for the M.A. program, but a major in one of the social sciences is considered good preparation. Postbaccalaureate work experience relevant to the field of rehabilitation counseling is preferred. The program encourages applications from persons traditionally underrepresented in the field, particularly those with a disability and/or members of minority or ethnic groups. A personal interview is required, either in person or by telephone.

Applications for full-time study are accepted for fall semester entry; applications for full-time study are reviewed beginning March 1. Applications for part-time study are accepted for fall and spring semesters and are considered when class space permits.

Students pursue a sequenced plan of study that begins in the fall semester. Although students may be admitted for any semester, the program highly recommends that full-time students begin in the fall.

**School Counseling**

The Master of Arts program in rehabilitation and counselor education with a school counseling subprogram requires a minimum of 60 s.h. of graduate credit. The program prepares individuals to work effectively as counselors in K-12 school settings. It is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). Successful graduates are eligible for K-12 school counselor licensure in Iowa.

During the first few semesters, students take core counseling courses, including course work focusing on counseling children and adolescents, school counseling programs, and courses focusing on clinical practice in the schools (practicum and internship). Students are expected to complete at least 100 clock hours in practicum and 600 clock hours in internship activities in an approved school setting, under the supervision of an experienced licensed school counselor and a University faculty supervisor.

Students who enter without teaching licensure are required to take the following classes in education: EPLS:3000 Foundations of Education, EDTL:4900 Foundations of Special Education, and PSQF:6200 Educational Psychology. Students who have completed the required courses should consult with their advisor regarding electives in order to fulfill the 60 s.h. requirement.

### Required Courses

The following schedule of required courses reflects a two-and-one-half year program of study. Students who do not have teacher licensure are required to complete the following courses in education: EPLS:3000 Foundations of Education, EDTL:4900 Foundations of Special Education, and PSQF:6200 Educational Psychology. Students who have completed the required courses should consult with their advisor regarding electives in order to fulfill the 60 s.h. requirement.

**Code** | **Title** | **Hours**
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RCE:4137 | Introduction to Educating Gifted Students | 3
RCE:5200 | Professional School Counselor | 3
RCE:5202 | Introduction to Group Counseling | 3
RCE:5203 | Career Development | 3
RCE:5204 | School Culture and Classroom Management for School Counselors | 3
RCE:5221 | Theories of Counseling and Human Development Across the Life Span | 3
RCE:5222 | Counseling Children and Adolescents in Schools | 3
RCE:5230 | School Counseling Program Leadership and Management | 3
RCE:5250 | Multiculturalism in Helping Professions | 3
RCE:5254 | Assessment and Appraisal | 3
RCE:5278 | Applied Microcounseling | 3
RCE:6300 | Practicum in School Counseling | 3
RCE:6321 | Internship in Elementary School Counseling | 6
RCE:6322 | Internship in Secondary School Counseling | 6
RCE:6500 | Research Methods in Counseling | 3
EDTL:4940 | Characteristics of Disabilities | 3
Electives (consult advisor) | 6

**Total Hours** | **60**
Comprehensive Examination

Students are required to take comprehensive exams for the departmental core and for school counseling during their final semester of internship. Comprehensive exams include a written six-hour exam in the departmental core and school counseling. An oral exam also is required unless waived by the comprehensive exam committee.

Admission

Applicants must meet the department's general admission requirements. They should have an undergraduate g.p.a. of 3.00 or higher. The department prefers that applicants have one year of teaching experience or successful experiences with children and/or adolescents, which they must document in a written statement. Graduate Record Exam (GRE) General Test scores must be on file at the University.

Applications are accepted for summer and fall entry and should be submitted by January 25th.