Rehabilitation and Counselor Education, Ph.D.

Maintaining Good Standing

Ph.D. students 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 a practicum, internship, or equivalent professional experience;
- maintain professional behavior consistent with the ACA Code of Ethics (American Counseling Association) for students enrolled in a counseling graduate program, or the AAMFT Code of Ethics (American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy) for students in couples and family therapy, and any additional code of professional ethics adhered to in any agency in which the 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.

Counselor Education and Supervision

The Doctor of Philosophy program in rehabilitation and counselor education with a subprogram in counselor education and supervision (CES) requires 96 s.h. of graduate credit. The program provides students with knowledge and skills related to general counseling (including mental health and school counseling), teaching, consulting, supervising counselors, and conducting research. Graduates enter professional work as counselors, counselor supervisors, counselor educators, researchers and/or consultants, or work in other positions requiring expertise in human relations. Students may choose an emphasis in an area agreed upon by faculty advisors.

Counselor education and supervision graduates are prepared to teach the knowledge and skills required of professional counselors and to supervise beginning and advanced counselors, perform counseling interventions with individuals and groups, and teach human relations skills in colleges or universities. They provide professional consultation with counseling practitioners, educators, and policy makers about counseling program development and evaluation. They also may perform research that contributes to knowledge about counseling, supervision, and counselor education.

The program is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). The American Counseling Association (ACA) and the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES) are the professional organizations most related to program activities.

The Ph.D. curriculum includes required courses in counseling, in research tools and applications, and a dissertation. Most students complete their course work in three years and take a fourth year to complete the dissertation. Students who have not completed a master’s degree program approved by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) may need to remedy deficiencies by taking appropriate course work at the master’s degree level.

The Ph.D. in rehabilitation and counselor education with a subprogram in counselor education and supervision requires the following work.

Required Courses

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Comprehensive Examination

The comprehensive examination consists of an oral defense of a student’s portfolio, which covers six professional competency domains in counselor education, and an exam on the minor area. The examination may be taken during a student’s final semester of course work, which typically includes an internship.

Elective Minor Area

The program offers an elective specialty in rehabilitation counselor education. This special emphasis advances individuals’ research, teaching, clinical supervision, and leadership interests in areas that address a variety of disability-related issues and the training of rehabilitation counselors in various settings.

The National Council on Rehabilitation Education is an additional professional organization closely related to this specialty area.

Students who chose to fulfill requirements for this specialty area also complete the following.

- RCE:7369 Advanced Seminar in Rehabilitation Counseling 3
- RCE:7450 Advanced Social Psychology of Disability 3
- RCE:7461 Practicum in Research arr.

A series of courses, typically a minimum of three, outside the Department of Rehabilitation and Counselor Education (consult major and minor area advisors)

Master’s Thesis Project or Equivalent

Students are required to submit a previously conducted master’s thesis for faculty review and approval or to complete a new supervised experiential research project before taking comprehensive exams. Students without an approved M.A./M.S. thesis enroll in the following.

- RCE:6394 Research and Scholarship Internship 1-3

Dissertation

The major research project culminating in the doctoral thesis may be on any topic related to counseling and counselor education. The thesis advisor and the examining committee approve the topic and procedures at a formal prospectus meeting. The final oral examination on the thesis is conducted by the examining committee. Students usually earn 10 s.h. for dissertation work, but in some instances they may earn up to 15 s.h. The dissertation committee must include at least two counselor education and supervision faculty members.

- RCE:7493 Ph.D. Thesis 10-15

Admission

Applicants must meet the department’s general admission requirements. In addition, applicants must provide evidence of successful experience in counseling or a closely related profession. Applicants without experience may be admitted if their credentials indicate exceptional strengths.

Students may be admitted for fall, spring, or summer entry, but the department strongly advises application for fall entry. Consideration of applications begins January 15 for fall entry; all application materials should be received by this date.

Couple and Family Therapy

The Doctor of Philosophy program in rehabilitation and counselor education with a subprogram in couple and family therapy (CFT) requires a minimum of 74 s.h. of graduate credit. The program prepares professionals for couple/marriage and family therapy leadership roles in academic and research settings, administration and supervision, and clinical delivery systems.

Using a social justice perspective, the program prepares CFTs in three domains: innovative research methods, advanced theoretical knowledge and clinical/supervisory skills, and effective teaching practices. Each of these domains is applied within an ethical and multicultural context.

The program is designed to meet the accreditation standards of the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. Ph.D. graduates are expected to have sufficient knowledge and skill to teach and conduct research at colleges and universities; supervise other professionals; and provide clinical services to individuals, couples, and families. They also should have competencies to engage in and evaluate theory-based qualitative and/or quantitative research.

Credit for the Ph.D. program may include credit for relevant course work completed for a COAMFTE-accredited master’s degree program in couple/marriage and family therapy or the equivalent.

Each student is required to submit a curriculum plan during the first two years of the program, before completing the comprehensive examination. The CFT faculty reviews each student annually; students must fulfill departmental requirements in order to continue in the program.

Work for the Ph.D. includes course work, a critical review, a theory of change paper, a comprehensive exam, a clinical or academic internship, and a dissertation. Most students complete the program’s required course work in two or three years and take one or two years to complete the internship and dissertation.
The Ph.D. in rehabilitation and counselor education with a subprogram in couple and family therapy requires the following work.

**Department Core**

All of these:

- **RCE:7353** Advanced Counseling and Psychotherapy 3
- **RCE:7357** Advanced Group Counseling and Psychotherapy 3
- **RCE:7400** Seminar: Ethics and Issues in Counseling 3
- **RCE:7451** Advanced Multiculturalism 3

**Required Research Courses**

Students must complete a specific sequence of research courses which include distributed course work in both qualitative and quantitative areas. They select from doctoral research courses listed under RCE Doctoral Research Requirements on the Department of Rehabilitation and Counselor Education website.

**Program Requirements**

All of these:

- **RCE:5262** Advanced Couple and Family Therapy 3
- **RCE:7361** Advanced Practicum in Couple and Family Therapy (must enroll multiple times for total of 9 s.h.) 9
- **RCE:7389** Seminar in Couple Intervention Research 3
- **RCE:7399** Supervision in Couple and Family Therapy 3
- **RCE:7404** Seminar in Child and Adolescent Intervention Research 3
- **RCE:7500** Internship in Couple and Family Therapy 1-3

**Teaching Requirements**

All of these:

- **RCE:7380** Internship in Teaching 3
- **EALL:7475** Ph.D. ePortfolio in College Teaching 3
- **GRAD:6217** Seminar in College Teaching 3
- **PSQF:6217** Seminar in College Teaching 3

**Comprehensive Examination**

The comprehensive examination consists of a portfolio a student has compiled during the program and its oral defense once course work has been completed.

**Internship**

Students must complete a clinical or academic internship.

- **RCE:7500** Internship in Couple and Family Therapy 1-3

**Dissertation**

Work for the doctoral dissertation employs a student’s independent skills in conducting original research. The dissertation process is supervised by a student’s advisor. Depending on a student’s research questions, the dissertation may require quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods and may involve data collection or the secondary analysis of an existing data set. The thesis advisor and the examining committee approve the topic and procedures at a formal prospectus meeting. The final oral examination on the thesis is conducted by the examining committee.

- **RCE:7493** Ph.D. Thesis 10

**Admission**

Applicants to the program must meet the department’s general admission requirements. They should have a graduate g.p.a. of at least 3.00 and a Graduate Record Exam (GRE) General Test combined verbal and quantitative score of at least 300 on the revised test or at least 1100 on the old test. They also must hold a master’s degree in couple and family therapy/marriage and family therapy from a Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) accredited program or the equivalent.

Students are admitted for fall entry. All application materials should be received on or before December 31, when the faculty begins evaluating applications. The program requires an interview with the faculty, in person or by telephone. Generally, the interview is scheduled once complete application materials have been received.