KRS Rehabilitation Counseling: Program Description

The Hawai‘i Rehabilitation Counselor Education Program (HRCE) at the University of Hawai‘i prepares graduate students to become successful practitioners and administrators in the field of rehabilitation. The HRCE Program offers an integrated series of general counseling theory and foundation rehabilitation courses, and clinical experiences in the student’s community. This 48 credit distance education program leads to a Master of Science degree in Kinesiology & Rehabilitation Science, with a specialization in Rehabilitation Counseling.

The program requires 3 years of enrollment with attendance in 6 regular semesters plus 2 intervening summer sessions in a hybrid online environment. Effective in the Fall 2012 semester, students have the option to complete 12 additional hours post-graduation to pursue licensure in states that require graduate programs consisting of 60 semester hours. Please contact program advisor if you wish to consider this option.

Mission & Objectives

The mission of the HRCE program is to provide graduate level training that is designed to provide students with the essential knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to assist individuals with disabilities to achieve an increased sense of empowerment, responsibility and maximum independence.

Consistent with its mission, the objectives of the program are to:

1. Increase the supply of qualified rehabilitation counselors for employment in a variety of public, non-profit and private employment settings
2. Increase the diversity of personnel in vocational rehabilitation (including individuals with disabilities and persons from culturally different backgrounds).

Multicultural Emphasis

One of the program’s main goals is to increase students’ levels of multicultural awareness, knowledge and skills, especially as applied to rehabilitation counseling practice. Program faculty members strongly believe that the training environment is enriched through multicultural interaction. Culturally diverse representation among the student body, faculty and staff result with graduates who are prepared to work in a society with clients representing a wide range of backgrounds and beliefs, including individuals with...
disabilities, veterans, injured active duty service members, and citizens with cultural and language differences.

Distance Learning

Innovative distance education degree program uses an online course management system and web-based conferencing. The HRCE program offers all classes in the late afternoon or evening (HST) in order to accommodate working students.

Accreditation & Licensure

- **CORE**
  The HRCE program is fully accredited by the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE). CORE is a specialized accreditation organization that is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and a member of the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA). CORE accredits graduate programs that provide academic preparation for various professional rehabilitation positions. Learn more at their website: [http://www.core-rehab.org/WhatIsCORE](http://www.core-rehab.org/WhatIsCORE). In compliance with the new CORE Standards, this program shall provide information routinely to the public on its performance, including, but not limited to, student enrollments, graduates, accreditation status, and student achievement consistent with policies of the institution, to foster continuing public awareness and confidence about academic quality.

- **NCATE**
  The College of Education is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The University of Hawai‘i at Manoa is accredited until by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). Learn more at their website: [http://www.ncate.org/](http://www.ncate.org/)

- **CRCC**
  The Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) sets the standard for quality rehabilitation counseling services in the United States and Canada and has developed its credentialing process to protect individuals with disabilities. Graduates of the HRCE program are eligible to take the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) examination. Learn more at their website: [http://www.crccertification.com/pages/aboutcertification/46.php](http://www.crccertification.com/pages/aboutcertification/46.php)

- **Mental Health Counselor**
  Graduates may also apply for State of Hawai‘i licensure as a Mental Health Counselor, provided they complete (1) the required post-graduate direct counseling work, (2) face-to-face clinical supervision within a two year period, and (3) pass the National Certified Counselor Examination. Learn more at their website: [http://hawaii.gov/dcca/pvl/programs/mental/](http://hawaii.gov/dcca/pvl/programs/mental/)
Student Enrollment and Employment Opportunities

There are currently 21 students in this program with 4 students projected to graduate in December 2012. The mean GPA of the last graduating class (n=12) was 3.75 on a 4.0 scale. Graduates from the program work in a variety of public, non-profit, and private employment settings. These settings have included state and federal vocational rehabilitation agencies, mental health and substance abuse programs, community rehabilitation programs, veteran affairs offices, psychiatric and physical rehabilitation hospitals, and independent living agencies.

Scholarships

Scholarships may be available to qualified, successful applicants, through the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration and the University of Hawai‘i College of Education.

Program and Application Requirements

To learn more about the program requirements and how to apply, please review the Rehabilitation Counseling for prospective students: [https://coe.hawaii.edu/node/927](https://coe.hawaii.edu/node/927)

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