



A Rehabilitation Counselor is a counselor who possesses the specialized knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to collaborate in a professional relationship with people who have disabilities to achieve their personal, social, psychological, and vocational goals.

Graduate Programs in Rehabilitation Counseling

The University of Iowa
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Rehabilitation Counseling
at THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Leaders in Shaping Better Lives
with and for **People with Disabilities**

Professional study of Rehabilitation Counseling at The University of Iowa prepares leaders in Rehabilitation Counseling through excellence in education, research, and clinical education.

Iowa's Historical Leaders

Beatrice Wright (MA '40/PhD '42)

Dr. Wright completed her dissertation in social psychology under Dr. Kurt Lewin and Dr. Tamara Dembo before a formal course of study in rehabilitation counseling existed. Her research planted the seed for the rehabilitation tradition at Iowa, and developed the powerful theory of somatopsychology. Wright became one of the most well-respected, prominent, and inspirational rehabilitation psychologists in the history of rehabilitation.

John E. Muthard

Dr. Muthard established Iowa's Graduate Programs in Rehabilitation in the 1950s. These were the first rehabilitation graduate programs west of the Mississippi River. Together with Paul Salomone (MA '62/PhD '68), Muthard wrote the first role and function study of rehabilitation counselors beginning the line of research that defines the profession and the work performed by its practitioners.

Marceline E. Jaques (MA '46/PhD '59)

Dr. Jaques is the first woman in the nation to receive a doctoral degree in Rehabilitation Counselor Education. She went on to become the first woman to direct a rehabilitation counselor education program, as well as provide national leadership in the early years of the profession.

C. Esco Obermann (BA '27/MA '31/PhD '38)

Dr. Obermann served as program coordinator for Iowa's Graduate Programs in Rehabilitation in the 1960s, and wrote the definitive text on the history of vocational rehabilitation. He chaired the National Rehabilitation Counseling Association's Ethics Committee who drafted the profession's first code of ethics in 1968.

Scope of Practice for Rehabilitation Counseling

Rehabilitation counseling is a systematic process which assists persons with physical, mental, developmental, cognitive, and emotional disabilities to achieve their personal, career, and independent living goals in the most integrated setting possible through the application of the counseling process. The counseling process involves communication, goal setting, and beneficial growth or change through self-advocacy, psychological, vocational, social, and behavioral interventions.

Techniques and Modalities

- assessment and appraisal;
- diagnosis and treatment planning;
- career (vocational) counseling;
- individual and group counseling treatment interventions focused on facilitating adjustments to the medical and psychosocial impact of disability;
- case management, referral, and service coordination;
- program evaluation and research;
- interventions to remove environmental, employment, and attitudinal barriers;
- consultation services among multiple parties and regulatory systems;
- job analysis, job development, and placement services, including assistance with employment and job accommodations; and
- the provision of consultation about and access to rehabilitation technology.