

USU MASTER OF REHABILITATION COUNSELING: INTERNSHIP

REHABILITATION COUNSELING INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

This course provides for a supervised experience in which students provide rehabilitation services in a rehabilitation facility or agency. It comprises a minimum of 600 hours work in the agency or facility. Forty percent or a minimum of 240 hours need to be spent in supplying direct services to clients with disabilities.

The internship is designed to expose students to learning situations where they may observe and model individuals performing their professional role functions. In addition, students actually participate in the rehabilitation process with gradually decreasing structure and supervision.

The goal of the internship experience is to learn and to function within a new and different aspect of the rehabilitation process and organizational structure, thus allowing students to continue to learn and to improve their skills. This process will enable them to provide rehabilitation in a variety of settings.

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the internship, students shall have demonstrated the ability to:

1. Provide direct rehabilitation counseling services to clients in a structured and supervised setting.
2. Form effective relationships with rehabilitation clients, staff, supervisors, the agency/facility, and external agencies/facilities.
3. Establish and maintain effective counseling relationships.
4. Obtain pertinent diagnostic information and properly interpret the information in conceptualizing problems.
5. Formulate sound and realistic rehabilitation plans, make optimum use of available rehabilitation services, and evaluate the progress of clients in their rehabilitation plan.
6. Plan and organize their work, write reports, and maintain adequate records.
7. Perform rehabilitation counseling tasks with an appropriate level of supervision.
8. Maintain professional and ethical standards in work responsibilities and relationships.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

The student will learn primarily from reading, studying, observing, participating in, and discussing various problems and issues with the agency supervisor.

Reading and study materials may include:

1. Agency plan
2. Procedural manual
3. Manual of forms
4. New employee orientation manual
5. Confidentiality requirements
6. Other materials and information pertinent to the internship site.

Areas of observing and participating may include:

1. Accepting referral information
2. Contacting clients
3. Counseling and guidance for clients
4. Establishing eligibility
5. Preparing a service plan
6. Arranging services to meet client needs
7. Other activities pertinent to the internship site
8. Participate in interviews
9. Assume responsibility for arranging services for clients and developing a small caseload. These cases should be representative in terms of complexity, cultural diversity, and disability.

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS

1. Students will complete the internship application forms, have them approved and signed by appropriate personnel and submit them to the university internship supervisor by application deadlines.
2. Students will read the Code of Professional Ethics for Rehabilitation Counselors and commit to following the ethical standards and principles contained in the code by signing the document at the end of the manual and submitting a copy with their internship application.
3. The internship should be regarded as a concentrated work experience, which includes direct client contact.
4. Students are expected to report with regularity, as professional staff members and to behave as professionals throughout the internship adhering to the Code of Professional Ethics for Rehabilitation Counselors.
5. Students are expected to dress and to act professionally and to call the agency if they will be late or absent.
6. Students will maintain weekly communication with the university internship supervisor, and meet at least one hour a week with an on-site agency supervisor.

7. Students will adhere to the work schedule and regulations of the agency. The agency holiday schedule rather than the university holiday schedule will be observed by students.
8. Students will maintain confidentiality of client information under agency guidelines.
9. Students will maintain a weekly summary of activities experienced, progress on learning objectives, personal reactions, professional development and total hours worked at the agency including client contact hours. The Weekly Summary Form will be submitted to the university supervisor and every week.
10. Video record 3-4 counseling sessions (20 minutes in length) for evaluation by site supervisor, instructors and feedback from peers.
11. Upon completion of the internship, the student will complete a 3-5 page Final Report of internship experience, Internship Student Self-Evaluation, Field Site Evaluation, Internship Experience Time Sheet and submit them to the university Internship supervisor before credit will be given.
12. Attend and participate in internship classes.

SUPERVISION OVERVIEW

The site supervisor acting as a teacher and consultant to the student plays a critical role in the internship experience.

1. The site supervisor must be an individual who:
 - has as a master's degree in a counseling field and is preferably a certified rehabilitation counselor (CRC) or CRC-eligible;
 - has worked in the setting at least two years;
 - is interested in supervising students.
2. The site supervisor will be expected to set aside a minimum of a one-hour time block weekly so that the student's progress can be evaluated. In addition, the student should have informal access to the supervisor during the internship hours as the need arises.
3. Will complete a counseling skills and final internship evaluation of the student and review the evaluations with the student.