SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION AND DISABILITY STUDIES

Rehabilitation Counseling Program

Program Outcomes: CORE STANDARD A.5

The graduate program in Rehabilitation Counseling (on campus and online) at Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana is fully accredited by the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) through 2018 (www.core-rehab.org).

The on campus program is a full-time program (FTP) and the online program is a part-time program designed to meet the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) requirements for state-federal rehabilitation agencies. The on campus program admits students in the fall and in special cases in the spring. The next cohort of online students will be admitted in Summer, 2014.

For a three-year period, during 2010-2013, the number of students enrolled (on campus and online) was 58, 47, and 53, respectively. During the same period, the number of graduates was 7, 4, and 24. The average time necessary to complete the program is 5 semesters for on campus and 7 semesters for online students. During 2013-2014 (3 semesters), the estimated cost of tuition and fees for a full-time student (12 hours) will be about $10,000 and part-time (9-6 hours) will vary from about $8,000 to $6,000.

The department has a total of three Long Term Training Grants from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), United States Department of Education. On campus students receive RSA scholarship covering tuition and fees, books, monthly stipend, graduate assistantship, and travel to conferences amounting to about $21,000 per year. Online CSPD students receive RSA scholarship covering tuition and fees, books and travel to conferences amounting to about $10,000 per year.

During 2010-2013, the program graduated a total of 35 students. Of which, 22 (63%) secured employment at state VR agencies within the first six months of their graduation. Others are employed at Community Rehabilitation Programs and non-profit agencies, 2 are employed as assistant professors of rehabilitation counseling at two universities, and one is pursuing doctoral studies.

In Fall, 2013, the program has 43 students; including 10 males and 33 females; 27 African Americans, 14 Caucasians, 1 Hispanic, and 1 Asian Pacific Islander; and 9 with disabilities. There are three full-time tenured, three full-time tenure track, and one adjunct faculty who teach in the CORE accredited graduate curriculum. The total FTE contributed by the faculty to the graduate program is 4.32. The faculty to student ratio is 1: 9.27.

In addition to 3 Long Term Training grants from RSA, the program has one Rehabilitation Capacity Building Project for Underserved Populations (RCBP-UP) from RSA, a MIND (Minority Disability) Alliance Project for Students with Disabilities in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) funded by the National Science Foundation, and a Field Initiated Project (FIP) funded by the National Institute
on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). These grants generate a total of about $1,250,000 each year.

The state VR agencies who hire our graduates do not require licensure. However, these agencies prefer the credential of Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC). Program graduates may pursue state licensure by completing additional course work.

Student outcomes are evaluated each year on a variety of different metrics that are part of the overall program evaluation. The program utilizes the CRC or the Departmental Comprehensive Examination to assess student learning outcomes across all CORE knowledge domains. During 2012, 23 out of 25 (92%) students either passed CRC or passed Departmental Comprehensive Examination.

During the past two decades, the program has had significant impact on Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS). At present, a large number of rehabilitation counselors, supervisors, regional managers, administrators, the assistant director, and the director of Louisiana Rehabilitation Services are our alumni. Additionally, an administrator at Rehabilitation Services Administration in Washington, D.C. has graduated from this program.