Western Washington University

Master of Arts in Rehabilitation Counseling

Everett University Center
located on the Everett Community College campus
What is Rehabilitation Counseling?

- Oriented toward serving individuals with disabilities
- Focused on the individual
- Counseling is goal-oriented
- Services are time-limited

Rehabilitation counselors are the only professional counselors educated and trained specifically to serve individuals with disabilities.
To learn more about Rehabilitation Counseling, watch the following videos created by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC)

**Click here to go to The Art of Rehabilitation Counseling**

**The Art of Rehabilitation Counseling** - CRCC's video explores the unique qualifications and exceptional abilities of rehabilitation counselors and their stories of success working to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities.

**Click here to go to CRC Certification: It Makes a Difference**

**CRC Certification: It Makes a Difference** - CRCC's video features eight CRCs who discuss the value and benefits of certification and the impact it has made in their careers.
Rehabilitation counselors encourage and support individuals with physical, mental, developmental, cognitive, and emotional disabilities to achieve their personal, career and independent living goals in the most integrated setting possible. *

*Adapted from Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification website.*
Rehabilitation Counselors engage in a counseling process which includes communication, goal setting, and beneficial growth or change through self-advocacy, psychological, vocational, social and behavioral interventions. *

*Adapted from Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification website.*
Rehabilitation counseling is distinguished from other helping professions by several key factors:

Specialized training that focuses on:

- understanding the medical and psychosocial aspects of various disabilities and disabiling conditions within a cultural context
- knowledge of assistive technology
- skilled service delivery through application of the case management process
- assessing abilities and strengths to facilitate a return-to-work or entry into the world of work

*Adapted from Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification website.*
Rehabilitation counseling is distinguished from other helping professions by several key factors:

Philosophy and approach to counseling that:

• values the rights of individuals with disabilities to live independent, integrated lives for full community participation

• considers advocacy with and for people with disabilities to be an essential part of the job

• strongly commits to the concepts of holistic counseling, full inclusion, and empowerment

• engages in a co-collaboration between the individual and counselor

*Adapted from Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification website.
Where do Rehabilitation Counselors Work?

- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; Department of Services for the Blind
- VA Hospitals; VA Vocational Rehab & Employment
- Non-profits focusing on employment; including mental health and substance abuse agencies
- Workers Compensation Agencies
- Community College & University Disability Support Services
What does it pay?

• Annual Range for WA: $44,960-$65,540
• Annual Range for Western WA: $43,680-$77,370
  • According to the Bureau of Labor & Statistics, 2019
Rehabilitation Counselors Rock in ACA Counselor Compensation Study*

In a recent study conducted by the American Counseling Association (ACA), Rehabilitation Counselors were named the highest paid specialty in the counseling profession and earn better overall benefits.

Designed to be a comprehensive look at counselor compensation and benefits across the profession, ACA developed and fielded a web survey in fall 2013 to a sample group of counselors in the specialty areas of Mental Health Counseling, Rehabilitation Counseling, and School Counseling and to Counselor Educators. Key areas covered in the survey included education and experience levels, certification and licensure attainment, current work setting, working conditions, and average compensation and employment benefits.

According to the ACA study:

• Rehabilitation Counselors are the most highly paid counseling specialty on average.
• Rehabilitation Counselors earn over $13,000 more than Clinical Mental Health Counselors, Mental Health Counselors, or Community Counselors on average.
• Rehabilitation Counselors receive better overall benefits - employee retirement plan, medical coverage, dental, vision, short-term and long-term disability - than other professional counselors.

This is very positive news for the rehabilitation counseling profession. To view the executive summary of the Counselor Compensation Study, click here.

*From the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification
Program - Format

Combination of online, hybrid, and face-to-face classes

Each face-to-face class meets one evening a week; hybrid classes meet 5x in quarter

Offices and classrooms are located in the Everett University Center building
Program Length

“Typical 2-year”

2-3 classes per quarter

Finish in 8 quarters (including 2 summers)

Western Washington University

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Typical 2-Year Academic Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall (12 credits)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fall (12 credits)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RC 578 – Legal, Ethical, and Professional Issues in RC (4)</td>
<td>RC 501 – Rehabilitation Research (4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>RC 580 – Theories &amp; Techniques of RC I (4)</td>
<td>RC 590 – Pre-Practicum in RC (4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>RC 582 – Introduction to RC (4)</td>
<td>RC 589 – Case Management in Rehabilitation (4)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Winter (12 credits)</th>
<th>Winter (14 credits)</th>
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<tr>
<td>RC 583 – Theories &amp; Techniques of RC II (6)</td>
<td>RC 588 – Career Development and Job Placement (6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>RC 586 – Medical Aspects of Disability (6)</td>
<td>RC 591 – Practicum in Rehabilitation Counseling (4)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Spring (12 credits)</th>
<th>Summer (8 credits)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RC 546 – Addictions and RC (2)</td>
<td>RC 592 – Internship in Rehabilitation Counseling (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RC 577 – Multicultural Rehabilitation Counseling (4)</td>
<td><strong>Online classes are in Italic &amp; blue. Hybrid classes that meet 5x/quarter are in green.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>RC 584 – Group Counseling in Rehabilitation (6)</td>
<td>All other classes meet weekly at the Everett University Center.</td>
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<th>Summer (8 credits)</th>
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<tr>
<td>RC 579 – Human Growth, Development, and Disability (4)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>RC 585 – Social, Psychological and Attitudinal Aspects of Disability (4)</td>
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11/2020
Tuition

For 2020-2021 (WA State Residents)

• $346/credit up to 9 credits
• $3,463 for 10-18 credits
• In addition, there is a $35 per quarter Everett fee and a $1 per quarter Legislative Action Fund fee
• Approximately $300/quarter for books

Important Dates

• Priority Deadline: April 1st
• Final Deadline: June 1st
• New students start the program: Fall
Financial Aid Resources

- Financial Aid Office at WWU
- Scholarship Center – Graduate Students at WWU
- Woodring College of Education Scholarships
- Tuition waivers
  For example: state employee
For more information:

wce.wwu.edu/rc

Or Contact:
Monica Holmer, Program Coordinator
RC.Everett@wwu.edu or 425-405-1644