WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE PROGRAM IN
REHABILITATION COUNSELING

PRACTICUM GUIDE
PRACTICUM IN REHABILITATION COUNSELING

**Description**: Closely supervised practice with clients in a selected public or private agency or other appropriate setting that serves individuals with disabilities. Every effort is made to assure that Practicum sites are culturally diverse, foster personal growth, and introduce students to counseling approaches and rehabilitation issues that affect service delivery. Successful completion of the Practicum is a prerequisite to the supervised rehabilitation counseling clinical internship experience. Students may not progress to the internship course (RC 592) if there is an outstanding K grade for practicum (RC 591).

Students are required to communicate during the summer quarter preceding their practicum with Dr. Dana Brickham, RC Clinical Coordinator, for an initial Practicum advising session. This may be combined with the student’s mid-program assessment meeting.

Only students who have taken RC 583 (Practice of Rehabilitation Counseling) and received a B or better are eligible to enter into a practicum.

**A. Purpose**

Practicum provides an opportunity for the student to apply his/her counseling skills as well as to sample professional responsibilities in a realistic work environment. As a participant in this field experience, the student will be expected to:

1. Practice those skills learned in previous or concurrent coursework.
2. Receive feedback on his/her level of effectiveness.
3. Share clinical experiences and techniques with other students in a supportive and collaborative environment.
4. Learn what issues other practicum students are encountering and brainstorm solutions with application potential.
5. Work with a variety of clients and presenting issues.
6. Experience those dynamics that are unique to different professional settings (e.g., state vocational rehabilitation agencies, community rehabilitation programs, veteran agencies, hospital settings).
7. Relate theory to practice.
8. Begin to formulate and practice a personal approach to counseling.

In addition to providing “real world” experiences for the graduate rehabilitation counseling student, the practicum will help meet the programming needs of the organization or agency in which the placement takes place by providing well-trained students who can perform a variety of professional functions.

**B. Practicum Objectives and Activities**

The following objectives and activities will be completed in varying levels depending on the practicum site. The faculty supervisor, the site (agency) supervisor, and the student will negotiate
the specific activities to be accomplished during the practicum using the Student Practicum Agreement Form (in Appendix A, Practicum Forms).

1. To gain proficiency in abstracting information from records and in writing a meaningful summary for use in planning:
   a. use of proper channels to obtain records
   b. selection of pertinent records
   c. abstraction of relevant material
   d. integration of material

2. To gain proficiency in obtaining additional background information from other agencies or persons to which clients are known:
   a. knowledge of agencies or personnel who have worked with the client
   b. ability to obtain the needed information through interviewing of persons involved
   c. respect for confidentiality of client during such interviews

3. To gain proficiency in doing initial intake interviews with clients for the purpose of determining their needs with respect to future evaluation, counseling, training, and placement activities:
   a. knowledge of approved ways of contacting clients
   b. preparation for interview
   c. ability to relate to client
   d. ability to elicit pertinent information
   e. ability to integrate results and to communicate them to designated personnel within the setting

4. To gain proficiency in conducting evaluations through the administration of batteries of educational, vocational, interest, and other related tests:
   a. ability to select appropriate battery
   b. ability to make arrangements with client for taking test
   c. ability to administer battery accurately
   d. ability to maintain rapport with client during testing
   e. ability to score tests
   f. ability to interpret results

5. To gain proficiency in counseling and communication:
   a. ability to communicate the results of an evaluation to the client
   b. ability to present evaluation results in a manner meaningful to the client
   c. ability to handle possible negative reactions of client
   d. to practice short-term supportive counseling techniques through a series of on-going interviews with one or two carefully selected clients
   e. ability to maintain a “helping” relationship
   f. ability to identify major areas of concern for the client that evolve through the counseling process
6. To gain proficiency in goal-setting and planning
   a. ability to establish counseling goals with the client
   b. ability to achieve counseling goals that were established with the client
   c. ability to write a rehabilitation plan with the client
   d. ability to plan services needed based on a rehabilitation plan

7. To gain proficiency in consulting with work supervisors and/or employers in order to evaluate potential work settings in terms of their suitability for placement of the client:
   a. ability to obtain pertinent information through interviewing of persons involved
   b. ability to maintain client’s confidentiality
   c. ability to integrate material obtained and to communicate it to designated personnel within the setting

8. To gain proficiency in writing a final report that integrates the results of all of the parts of the evaluation:
   a. ability to communicate, accuracy of interpretation, clarity of thought
   b. ability to make appropriate recommendations
   c. knowledge of additional services that might be required to implement recommendations

9. In addition to duties directly involving clients, the student is expected to attend meetings, conferences, etc., held in the setting during the time he/she is there, which are considered to be relevant to the current stage of training.

C. Practicum Responsibilities

Student Responsibilities
1. To maintain standards in keeping with the Code of Professional Ethics for Rehabilitation Counselors;
2. To act within the limits of his/her defined roles, training, and competencies as defined and approved in this document;
3. To adhere to the policies and procedures for professional personnel at the practicum site (e.g., working hours, dress, and activities) for the duration of the field experience;
4. To cooperate with the site supervisor and faculty supervisor, submitting reports at appropriate times, and keeping a log of activities performed as part of the practicum;
5. To respect the confidentiality of information about clients or participants of the practicum site at all times, and to follow any policies or guidelines of the university and the practicum site relating to research or training with human subjects;
6. To report concerns or problems promptly and completely to both the site and faculty supervisors so that these issues may be resolved as soon as possible;
7. To avoid undertaking any activity in which competency, personal problems, or conflicts of interest are likely to lead to inadequate performance. If such a situation arises, the student shall seek agency or faculty supervisor assistance to determine the appropriate course of action;
8. To complete all course assignments and submit required practicum documentation by specified due dates;
9. To attend all scheduled group supervisory sessions and course seminar sessions;
10. To schedule time to regularly meet and communicate with the Faculty supervisor for the purpose of evaluation of guidance, clinical skills, and professional growth; and
11. To complete the following evaluation activities: (a) a Student Self-Assessment of Practicum Learning, (b) a Student Evaluation of Graduate Practicum Site, and (c) a Faculty Evaluation.

**University Program/Faculty Instructor Responsibilities**

1. To assign an RC Clinical Coordinator to facilitate communication between the university and site;
2. To assign a university faculty supervisor who is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor;
3. To notify the student that he/she must adhere to the administrative policies, rules, standards, schedules, and practices of the site;
4. To be available for consultation with both site supervisors and students and shall be immediately contacted should any problem or change in relation to student, site, or university occur;
5. To assign a practicum grade;
6. To assist practicum students in locating sites for field experience, as needed;
7. To prepare practicum students for placement in the field;
8. To periodically meet with the site supervisor at the approved practicum site to discuss practicum student’s program;
9. To meet on a regularly scheduled basis with the practicum student to assess clinical skills and review progress; and
10. To collaborate with the site supervisor in evaluating the practicum student’s professional growth.

**Practicum Site/Site Supervisor Responsibilities**

1. To assign a practicum supervisor who has appropriate credentials, time, and interest for training the practicum student, preferably a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor;
2. To provide opportunities for the student to engage in a variety of counseling activities under supervision and for evaluating the student’s performance;
3. To provide the student with adequate work space, telephone, office supplies, and staff support to conduct professional activities;
4. To provide weekly supervision meetings with the practicum student to discuss performance, provide mentoring, and support with clinical issues;
5. To verify monthly Practicum hours through signing the monthly Contact Hours form;
6. To conduct a written evaluation of the practicum student including completing the Site Supervisor’s Evaluation of Student Practicum Performance;
7. To immediately communicate any concerns regarding the practicum student to the faculty supervisor and/or the RC Clinical Coordinator.

**D. Time Commitment**

The practicum student will complete a minimum of 100 clock hours in performing the functions required at the agency. A minimum of 40 hours of this time shall be spent in direct service to
persons with disabilities. In addition to the hours at the practicum site, the student will attend a minimum of 5 seminar class sessions per quarter.

E. Instructional Experiences

**Group Supervision:** According to CORE Standards, the practicum student is expected to spend a minimum of 1½ hours per week in a group session facilitated by a faculty instructor. For the WWU RC Program, this typically involves attending five seminar classes during the quarter. After addressing immediate concerns, practicum students might listen to and discuss tape-recorded counseling sessions, discuss theories and techniques related to common issues, exchange feedback with peers regarding personal and professional impressions, and discuss professional growth and development areas. No more than five students will be allowed to register for each practicum section; however, two practicum sections may meet together for group supervision, depending on the instructor’s preference.

**Individual Supervision:** The practicum student is expected to spend a minimum of one hour per week engaged in individual supervision with the site supervisor. These sessions provide an opportunity for intensive review of the student’s work and are often regarded as one of the most valuable of the course experiences.

If the site supervisor is not a CRC, the student is also required to meet regularly with the faculty instructor or designated CRC (typically an alumnus of the program with expertise in the practicum area of practice) for individual supervision. These meetings are in addition to the required individual site supervision meetings.

**Tape Critiques:** The practicum student is expected to record (audio and/or video) at least five counseling sessions, either in the seminar class or with the faculty instructor. These sessions will be reviewed by the practicum student prior to submission and accompanied by written critique. No recordings will be accepted for review without an accompanying Counseling Session Summary Notes (SOAP NOTES) (in Appendix A, Practicum Forms).

**TIPS FOR AUDIO RECORDING**

**Before Your Session**
- Use only quality sound recording equipment. Poor recordings will not be critiqued.
- Record only one counseling session per uploaded file to avoid confusion during playback.
- Be sure to conduct a sound check prior to your client’s arrival, minimize distracting background noises, and ensure that the volume is adjusted properly.
- Minimize interruptions by placing a “Counseling in Session” or a “Do Not Disturb” sign on the door.

**During your Session**
- Record the client’s permission to record on the recording itself, or use the format required by the site or the format found in Appendix A, Practicum Forms.
- If this is your first session with the client, explain confidentiality and its limitations (e.g., duty to report abuse)
To insure client comfort, allow him or her to control the recorder. That is, allow him or her to turn the machine off any time he or she feels uncomfortable recording particular content.

To the best of your ability, model “ignore the recorder” for your client.

**After your Session**

- Review your recording critically, noting relevant passages. Use your notes from the session for additional analysis.
- Maximize your opportunity to learn from the critique sessions by:
  - avoiding defensiveness when others provide feedback;
  - avoiding undue modesty and accept praise when you have done well; and
  - paying close attention while listening to other students’ recordings and be prepared to model their effective techniques.

**F. Documenting Practicum Activities**

In compliance with CORE Standards and the University curriculum requirements, it is important that both the total number of hours spent in practicum and the number of hours invested in performing particular counselor activities be accurately and completely reported (see Appendix A, Practicum Forms).

**Beginning Your Practicum:**

1. The **STUDENT PRACTICUM AGREEMENT** outlines those conditions under which the practicum student serves. The agreement must be completed and signed by the site supervisor and brought to the first seminar class of the quarter. Once the agreement is signed by the RC Clinical Coordinator and the faculty supervisor, one copy of the completed agreement should be given to your site supervisor and one copy uploaded to the Practicum Canvas site. You should keep a copy of the completed agreement for your records.

2. All practicum students must have professional liability insurance. WWU provides professional liability coverage up $1 million per claim/$3 million annual aggregate for a full calendar year for a minimal premium. See the **STUDENT MEDICAL MALPRACTICE INSURANCE ON-LINE ENROLLMENT FORM** for more information.

**During Your Practicum:**

1. **PRACTICUM CONTACT HOURS** are updated each day the student is on site and submitted monthly. This form must include all signatures and be uploaded to the Practicum Canvas site by the specified due date.

2. **COUNSELING SESSION SUMMARY NOTES (SOAP NOTES)** are used to evaluate audio or video recordings of counseling sessions and provided to the faculty instructor prior to recordings being reviewed.

3. An entry is made in a **JOURNAL** for each day on the practicum site (up to a maximum of three entries).

**At the End of Your Practicum:**
1. Complete the **STUDENT SELF-ASSESSMENT OF PRACTICUM LEARNING** prior to the final meeting with the site supervisor and bring three copies to the meeting to facilitate the discussion. Upload the completed assessment to the Practicum Canvas site by the end of the quarter.

2. Complete the **STUDENT EVALUATION OF GRADUATE PRACTICUM SITE** and upload to the Practicum Canvas site by the end of the quarter. Please note that this form may be shared with future practicum students.

3. The **SITE SUPERVISOR’S EVALUATION OF STUDENT PRACTICUM PERFORMANCE** is completed independently by the site supervisor. The student should give this form to the site supervisor no later than the 5th week of the quarter. This evaluation needs to be completed prior to the final meeting with the site supervisor for review with the student and faculty supervisor.

**G. Evaluation of Performance:**

The final grade issued for the practicum course will be based on counseling skills proficiency, knowledge of topical issues in the field, and demonstrated professionalism as determined by both the site supervisor and the faculty instructor. However, the faculty instructor is responsible for assigning the final grade.

Specific evaluative criteria include, but are not limited to:

1. Adherence to Code of Professional Ethics for Rehabilitation Counselors (see Appendix B).
2. Compliance with all policies and directives issued by the practicum site and the University pertinent to performance as a practicum student.
3. Completion of all documentation in an accurate, timely, comprehensive, and legible fashion.
4. Compliance with all session recording and preview requirements.
5. Attendance and active participation in all supervisory sessions, including course seminar meetings.
6. Final evaluations from student and site supervisor.

When a student’s readiness for placement into field studies or when a student’s ability to meet professional performance expectations within a current field studies placement are in question, the situation will be referred for a case conference prior to long-term or permanent restriction or removal from field studies placements, based on the Department of Health and Community Studies Case Conference Policy (located in Appendix C). Temporary restriction or removal of a student in the field may occur until the case conference procedure has ended.

There may be situations where a field placement is not a good match between the site, the student, and/or the supervisor. If there is no question of a student’s ethical or professional behavior or ability to meet essential functions, then these situations do not require a case conference. Rather, students will be allowed to find another placement and continue in field studies.
H. Requirements for Journal

Experience and Reflection = Growth. As the equation suggests, we do not actually learn from experience as much as we learn from reflecting on experience.

What is reflective thinking and why is it desirable? Reflective thinking means “turning a subject over in the mind and giving it serious and consecutive consideration.” John Dewey insists that reflective thinking frees us from mere impulsive and routine activity. It enables us to act in deliberate and intentional fashion to achieve what we need. It distinguishes us as human beings and is the hallmark of intelligent action.

Reflective rehabilitation counselors actively, persistently, and carefully consider beliefs and practices in light of the knowledge that supports them and the further consequences to which they lead. Reflective thinking allows the rehabilitation counselor to examine critically the assumptions that rehabilitation agencies make about what can count as acceptable client goals and appropriate methods, problems, and solutions. In your field experience, reflective thinking will allow you to act in deliberate and intentional ways and devise new ways to fulfill on-site responsibilities and to interpret new experiences from a fresh perspective.

If you merely “do” your field experience, accumulating the necessary on-site hours without thinking deeply about it, if you merely allow your experiences to wash over you without savoring and examining them for their significance, your growth will be greatly limited. The journal you write, the questions you try to answer, and other activities in which you engage will all be merely tools to facilitate reflective thinking about your field experience.

Because it is difficult to think deeply about all our experiences, it helps to focus thoughts on particularly significant events. Focusing on one or two events does not mean ignoring all others. Instead, it means keeping a record of all events while selecting, elaborating on, and analyzing one or more that represent an important development in perspective, goals, or plans. The following format is designed to help you grow as a rehabilitation counselor by enabling you to benefit from your field experience.

Your Journal

You will be expected to keep a weekly reflection journal with entries for each day that you are working at your practicum site (up to a maximum of three entries). Each entry should demonstrate LEARNING acquired from your work experience, not what you did. One model for doing this is to apply the EIAG (Experience, Identify, Analyze, Generalize) process:

1) Describe an Experience.
2) Identify ONE thing you learned from that particular experience. Whether your experiences reflect your successes or your failures, they are significant if you learned something important from them. Describe the experience(s) in detail.
3) Analyze why you think that was an important insight or learning for you; why did that experience stand out. Try to figure out what you accomplished, identify problems that emerge and how you plan to follow up, and distill from the experience(s) what you learned.
4) **Generalize** how you will use this knowledge in the future to help you become a better rehabilitation counselor. As an example, you might describe whether you learned what works or what does not. Describe what you conclude. If you learned something about your rehabilitation philosophy, tell whether it confirms your ideas or forces you to reconsider; and/or note any questions that arrive for you that you would like to discuss with your supervisors or with your peers during a seminar.

Your practicum instructor will provide specifics on this course requirement in terms of format, length, and content.
Appendix A

Practicum Forms
Welcome to Practicum and Internship planning! To start this process, download and read the Practicum Guide AND the Internship Guide (available on the RC website or on the RC Student Resources Canvas site). Submit the completed form to Dr. Brickham, RC Clinical Coordinator (look for an email from Dr. Brickham indicating where to submit the form and the due date – this form is typically completed the summer prior to the start of your Practicum in winter quarter).

Reminder: after you complete this form, please remember to save it to your computer so that you can upload and submit the form.

Student’s name:  
Date:  
Interests (population, agencies, etc.):  

Have you identified a potential Practicum/Internship site(s)?  ☐ Yes ❏ No
If yes, where?  
Are you employed at the site?  ☐ Yes ❏ No
Are you planning to use this site as part of your Practicum and Internship experience?
   For Practicum:  ☐ Yes ❏ No
   For Internship:  ☐ Yes ❏ No

Things to consider about a potential placement:
Will you have access to individual clients to tape/audio record sessions?  ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don’t Know
Does your proposed site(s) have an on-site CRC credentialed supervisor?  ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don’t Know
Does your proposed site(s) require a Memorandum of Agreement?  ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don’t Know

Do you have any specific questions about Practicum and Internship?

Click here to enter text.
GRADUATE PROGRAM IN REHABILITATION COUNSELING
STUDENT PRACTICUM AGREEMENT

This agreement is made on __________ by and among WWU Graduate Program in Rehabilitation Counseling, ________________________, and ________________________.

(Pacticum Site) (Student)

The agreement will be effective for a period from __________to __________ for ___ hours per week.

Purpose

The purpose of this agreement is to provide a qualified graduate student with a rehabilitation counseling practicum experience.

The university program/faculty instructor agrees
1. to assign an RC Clinical Coordinator to facilitate communication between the university and site;
2. to assign a university faculty supervisor who is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor;
3. to notify the student that he/she must adhere to the administrative policies, rules, standards, schedules, and practices of the site;
4. to be available for consultation with both site supervisors and students and shall be immediately contacted should any problem or change in relation to student, site, or university occur;
5. to assign a practicum grade;
6. to assist practicum students in locating sites for field experience, as needed;
7. to prepare practicum students for placement in the field;
8. to periodically meet with the site supervisor at the approved practicum site to discuss practicum student’s program;
9. to meet on a regularly scheduled basis with the practicum student to assess clinical skills and review progress; and
10. to collaborate with the site supervisor in evaluating the practicum student’s professional growth.

The practicum site/site supervisor agrees
1. to assign a practicum supervisor who has appropriate credentials, time, and interest for training the practicum student, preferably a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor;
2. to provide opportunities for the student to engage in a variety of counseling activities under supervision and for evaluating the student’s performance;
3. to provide the student with adequate work space, telephone, office supplies, and staff support to conduct professional activities;
4. to provide weekly supervision meetings with the practicum student to discuss performance, provide mentoring, and support with clinical issues;
5. to verify monthly Practicum hours through signing the monthly Contact Hours form;
6. to conduct a written evaluation of the practicum student including completing the Site Supervisor’s Evaluation of Student Practicum Performance;
7. to immediately communicate any concerns regarding the practicum student to the faculty supervisor and/or the RC Clinical Coordinator.
**The student agrees**

1. to maintain standards in keeping with the Code of Professional Ethics for Rehabilitation Counselors;
2. to act within the limits of his/her defined roles, training, and competencies as defined and approved in this document;
3. to adhere to the policies and procedures for professional personnel at the practicum site (e.g., working hours, dress, and activities) for the duration of the field experience;
4. to cooperate with the site supervisor and faculty supervisor, submitting reports at appropriate times, and keeping a log of activities performed as part of the practicum;
5. to respect the confidentiality of information about clients or participants of the practicum site at all times, and to follow any policies or guidelines of the university and the practicum site relating to research or training with human subjects;
6. to report concerns or problems promptly and completely to both the site and faculty supervisors so that these issues may be resolved as soon as possible;
7. to avoid undertaking any activity in which competency, personal problems, or conflicts of interest are likely to lead to inadequate performance. If such a situation arises, the student shall seek agency or faculty supervisor assistance to determine the appropriate course of action;
8. to complete all course assignments and submit required practicum documentation by specified due dates;
9. to attend all scheduled group supervisory sessions and course seminar sessions;
10. to schedule time to regularly meet and communicate with the Faculty supervisor for the purpose of evaluation of guidance, clinical skills, and professional growth; and
11. to complete the following evaluation activities: (a) a Student Self-Assessment of Practicum Learning, (b), a Student Evaluation of Graduate Practicum Site, and (c) a Faculty Evaluation.

The practicum activities (checked below) will be provided for the student in sufficient amounts to allow an adequate evaluation of the student’s level of competence in each activity.

**Practicum Activities (please check all that apply)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>☐ Use information from records</th>
<th>☐ Assist with setting goals and planning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(e.g., Use proper channels to obtain records, select pertinent records, abstract/integrate material)</td>
<td>(e.g., establish/achieve counseling goals, write a rehabilitation plan, plan for needed services)</td>
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<td>☐ Gather additional background information</td>
<td>☐ Consult with work supervisors/employers</td>
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<td>(e.g., contact/interview persons from other agencies)</td>
<td>(e.g., obtain pertinent information, maintain client’s confidentiality, integrate/communicate materials obtained)</td>
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<td>☐ Respect confidentiality</td>
<td>☐ Write reports</td>
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<td>☐ Conduct intake interviews</td>
<td>(e.g., clarity of thought, ability to communicate, appropriate recommendations)</td>
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<td>(e.g., prepare for interview, establish professional relationship, elicit/integrate pertinent information)</td>
<td>Knowledge of additional resources</td>
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<td>☐ Administer tests/evaluation tools</td>
<td>☐ Attend meetings, conferences, etc.</td>
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<td>(e.g., select appropriate tests/evaluation tools, administer accurately, score and interpret results)</td>
<td>As relevant to current stage of training</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ Counseling and communication</td>
<td>☐ Other (please list)</td>
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<td>(e.g., short-term supportive counseling, effective communication)</td>
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RC CLINICAL COORDINATOR

Dr. Dana Brickham (CRC# 00090487)  

Date

FACULTY SUPERVISOR

Printed/Typed Name

Printed/Typed Name

e-mail

e-mail

Phone number

Phone number

Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) #

Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) #

Faculty Supervisor Signature

Faculty Supervisor Signature

SITE SUPERVISOR

Printed/Typed Name

Printed/Typed Name

e-mail

e-mail

Phone number

Phone number

Work Address:

Work Address:

Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) #

Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) #

In some cases, a Memorandum of Agreement already exists between WWU and the agency. If this is the case, the MOA expands on any agreements made here. Interagency Memorandum of Agreement is on file: Yes ☐ No ☐

STUDENT

Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) #

Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) #

Printed/Typed Name

Other Credential Type, No., and State

Printed/Typed Name

Student Signature

Site Supervisor Signature

STUDENT: ONE COPY OF THE COMPLETED AGREEMENT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO YOUR SITE SUPERVISOR AND ONE COPY UPLOADED TO THE PRACTICUM CANVAS SITE. YOU SHOULD KEEP A COPY OF THE COMPLETED AGREEMENT FOR YOUR RECORDS.
STUDENT MEDICAL MALPRACTICE INSURANCE PROGRAM

Note: ONLY available to Western Washington University Students

On-Line Enrollment and Cost: On-line enrollment is available only at https://commerce.cashnet.com/wwu_rm1. The cost for this insurance is a flat fee of $19.00 for 12 months of coverage from the date the fee is paid. The fee can be paid by a valid credit card (MasterCard, Discover and American Express cards are accepted) or debit card payment from your personal checking or savings account. It is the student’s responsibility to make sure their premium is paid and their coverage is current.

When completing the ON-LINE enrollment form, please list “Health and Community Studies” as the Academic Department, “Dana Brickham” as the Faculty/Staff Advisor, and “Practicum and Internship in Rehabilitation Counseling (RC 591 and RC 592)” as the Internship Position Title (or description of work). Also, please make sure you click the box for an “Email Receipt” so that you can forward a copy of your receipt to Dr. Brickham, RC Clinical Coordinator.

Description: WWU’s Student Medical Malpractice Insurance Program insures the professional liability of WWU students who furnish mental and physical healthcare-related professional services during internship or field experience work as required under a related degree curriculum. Students must be enrolled and engaged in an internship or field experience course, or any of the student’s related degree curriculum courses, at the time of internship or field experience work.

Examples include athletic trainer, mental health counselor, school counselor, dance therapist, drug and alcohol counselor, marriage and family counselors, audiologist, language-speech pathologist, dietitian, physical therapist, social worker, occupational therapist, and services in the physical education, health and recreation fields. If you are unsure whether your position can be covered, e-mail paul.mueller@wwu.edu with your question.

Coverage: The policy provides professional liability insurance for the student, and also provides coverage for faculty who are supervising and instructing the students. It covers what the student or faculty may be legally obligated to pay for bodily injury or property damage caused by a negligent act or omission arising out of the rendering of healthcare-related professional services by the student. The limit of liability is $1,000,000 per occurrence, with a $3,000,000 annual aggregate per school. General liability insurance is also included with a limit of $1,000,000. Higher limits are not available. Of course, coverage is limited to the insurance policy’s terms, conditions and exclusions.

Evidence of Coverage: Evidence of coverage is not provided automatically. However, a student may request a copy of a certificate of insurance by e-mailing a request to paul.mueller@wwu.edu.

Claims: Potential and actual claims must be reported immediately to paul.mueller@wwu.edu by the academic department in charge of the student. Risk Management will administer the claim at that time.

Important Notice: This summary is designed to give you a general overview of the insurance coverage. It should be construed as a representation or legal interpretation of coverage. Coverage may change without notice. Contact Risk Management for specific information about the program and coverage terms, conditions and exclusions.
# Practicum Contact Hours

**Student Name**____________________________________________________

**Month/Year**______________________________________________________

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<td>Faculty Supervision/Class Hours</td>
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* By the end of Practicum, students need to complete a minimum of 100 hours at the practicum site (sum of columns 2-5), a minimum of 40 hours of direct service (column 2), and a minimum of 10 hours of individual site supervision (column 4).

**Student Signature:** ____________________________________________  **Date:** ________________

**Site Supervisor Signature:** ________________________________  **Date:** ________________
COUNSELING SESSION SUMMARY NOTES (SOAP Notes)

Counselor: ____________________ Session Date: ______________ Time: ______________

Client(s) Name: ___________________________________________ Session #: ______

******************************************************************************

Client Description:

Subjective Complaint:

Objective Findings:

Assessment of Progress:

Plans for Next Session:

Self-Critique of Session:

Needs for Supervision:
**GUIDE TO SOAP NOTES**

**Client Description:** Manner of dress, physical appearance, illnesses, disabilities, energy level, general self-presentation. (Only update after first session)

**Subjective Complaint:** Presenting problem(s) or issue(s) from the client’s point of view. What the client says about causes, duration, and seriousness of issue(s). If the client has more than one concern, rank them based on client’s perception of their importance.

**Objective Finding:** Counselor’s observation of the client’s behavior during the session. Verbal and nonverbal, including eye contact, voice tone and volume, body posture. Especially note any changes and when they occur (such as a client who becomes restless in discussing a topic or whose face turns red under certain circumstances). Note discrepancies in behavior.

**Assessment of Progress:** Counselor’s view of the client, beyond what the client said or did. Continual evaluation of client in terms of emotions, cognitions, and behavior. Identification of themes and patterns in what client says and does. Use of developmental (Erikson, social learning theory) or mental health models (DSM-IV). Include your hypotheses, interpretations, and conceptualization of client.

**Plans for Next Session:** Plans for client, not for the counselor. Short and long-term goals. How you want to interact with client; what you may plan to respond to in next session with client (follow-up on family issues discussed). Do you plan to help client focus on thoughts, feelings, or behaviors? What particular strategy or theoretical approach might you use? What do you base your plan on?

**Self-Critique:** Your impression of your performance of counseling skills and relative strengths and weaknesses, including (a) active listening, (b) use of silences, (c) use of good questions, (d) reflection, (e) confrontation, (f) interpretation, and (g) self-disclosure.

**Needs for Supervision:** What reading or research do you need to do in preparation? Practice? What help do you need from your supervisor?
I, __________________________, agree to be counseled by
______________________________________, a practicum student in the Graduate Program in
Rehabilitation Counseling, Department of Health and Community Studies, Western Washington
University.

I further understand that I will participate in counseling interviews that will be audiotaped,
videotaped, and/or viewed by practicum students and faculty.

I understand that I will be counseled by a graduate student who has completed advanced
coursework in rehabilitation counseling.

I understand that the student will be supervised by a faculty member and site supervisor.

Client’s Signature ____________________________ Age________

Date ____________

Parent/Guardian Signature (if required) ________________________________

Date _________________
STUDENT SELF-ASSESSMENT OF PRACTICUM LEARNING

Prior to the final meeting with the instructor and site supervisor, each student is required to write a short (3 to 5 pages) reflection on your performance and experience. Bring three copies of this completed form to the meeting to facilitate discussion. By the end of the quarter, upload the completed form to the Practicum Canvas site.

Please use the following areas to structure your self-assessment:

1. An overview of the activities in which you participated with an analysis of the personal and professional development gained from these activities. The following activities, as described in the Practicum manual, are provided as a guide for this summary and analysis, however, not all practicum students experience all activities.
   a. Using information from records
   b. Gathering additional background information
   c. Conducting intake interviews
   d. Administering tests
   e. Providing counseling and effective communication
   f. Assisting with goal setting and planning
   g. Consulting with work supervisor
   h. Writing reports
   i. Attending meetings, conferences, etc.

2. A self-assessment of your counseling skills and relative strengths and weaknesses
   a. Active listening
   b. Use of silences
   c. Use of good questions (both closed and open-ended)
   d. Reflection
   e. Confrontation
   f. Interpretation
   g. Self-disclosure

3. Implications for your learning goals in internship.
STUDENT EVALUATION OF GRADUATE PRACTICUM SITE
(Please note that this form may be shared with future practicum students.)

NAME: ___________________________________________ DATE: __________

AGENCY NAME: __________________________________________

SITE SUPERVISOR: __________________________________________

Please comment on the questions below. Feel free to use extra pages.

1. Evaluate the overall quality of your practicum experience.

2. Evaluate and discuss the quality of supervision you received from your practicum site supervisor.

3. Outline areas of strength at this agency for a practicum experience.

4. Discuss your opportunities for counseling experience during this practicum placement.
On the scale below, please rate how the practicum experience has enhanced your knowledge/skill base in the areas listed. Please add any comments to your rating.

1. Excellent
2. Very Good
3. Good
4. Satisfactory
5. Unsatisfactory
6. N/A – not applicable

A. Knowledge and application of basic skills and techniques in counseling
   Comments:

B. Application of the individual counseling process
   Comments:

C. Application of the group counseling process
   Comments:

D. Professional application of counseling in a rehabilitation service agency
   Comments:

E. Problem-solving and decision-making
   Comments:

F. Professionalism
   Comments:

Would you recommend this site/agency to another rehabilitation counseling practicum student?

Yes ________ No ________
Comments:
SITE SUPERVISOR’S EVALUATION OF STUDENT PRACTICUM PERFORMANCE

Graduate Program in Rehabilitation Counseling
Department of Health and Community Studies
Woodring College of Education

Name of practicum student __________________________________________________________

Period covered by the evaluation ___________________________________________________

**Directions:** Check the box that best evaluates the practicum student on their performance in each area using the following rating scale:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>N/A</th>
<th>Not Applicable or unable to assess</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory progress towards meeting performance standards</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Satisfactorily working towards meeting performance standards</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Meets performance standards</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Exceeds performance standards</td>
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<tr>
<th>General Skills</th>
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<td>a. Accomplishes tasks with an appropriate level of supervision</td>
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<td>b. Demonstrates appropriate levels of confidence</td>
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<td>c. Is organized and efficient in accomplishing assigned duties</td>
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<td>d. Demonstrates problem solving by obtaining necessary information and asking for help when needed</td>
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<td>e. Dresses professionally and appropriately for the work setting</td>
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<td>f. Is professional in relationships with clients and staff</td>
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<td>g. Shows knowledge of agency structure, function, policy, and procedures</td>
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<td>h. Is punctual in reporting to work and meetings</td>
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<td>i. Accepts constructive criticism and positive feedback concerning performance</td>
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<td>j. Demonstrates the ability to collaborate with others</td>
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<td>Counseling Skills</td>
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<td>a. Researches the case prior to the first interview</td>
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<td>b. Conducts interviews and counseling sessions in a relaxed and comfortable nature</td>
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<td>c. Communicates interest in and acceptance of the client</td>
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<td>d. Facilitates client expression of concerns and feelings</td>
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<td>e. Focuses on the content of the client’s presenting issue(s)</td>
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<td>f. Uses relevant client information when deciding on various counseling techniques and their implications</td>
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<td>g. Uses silence effectively in the counseling session</td>
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<td>h. Uses self-disclosure in an appropriate manner</td>
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<td>i. Recognizes and pursues discrepancies and meaning of inconsistent information</td>
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<td>j. Facilitates realistic goal setting with the client</td>
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<td>k. Uses relevant case data in planning both immediate and long-range goals</td>
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<td>l. Encourages appropriate action-step planning with the client</td>
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<td>m. Explains, administers, and interprets tests correctly</td>
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<td>n. Demonstrates accuracy and clarity in written and verbal communication</td>
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<td>o. Completes case reports and records punctually and conscientiously</td>
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<td>p. Demonstrates knowledge of the Code of Professional Ethics for Rehabilitation Counselors</td>
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<td>q. Demonstrates ethical behavior in the counseling and case management activities</td>
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<td>r. Shows sensitivity to clients and colleagues while maintaining appropriate boundaries</td>
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Please comment on any areas identified above where the student did not meet professional performance standards. 


Additional comments and/or suggestions: 


Signatures

Site Supervisor Signature  
Date

Faculty Supervisor Signature  
Date

My signature indicates that I have read the above report and have discussed the content with my site supervisor. It does not necessarily indicate that I agree with the report in part or in whole.

Student Signature  
Date
Appendix B

Code of Professional Ethics For Rehabilitation Counselors
CODE OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS FOR REHABILITATION COUNSELORS

Adopted in June 2009 by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification for its Certified Rehabilitation Counselors. This Code is effective as of January 1, 2010.

Developed and Administered by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC®)
1699 East Woodfield Road, Suite 300
Schaumburg, Illinois 60173
(847) 944-1325
http://www.crccertification.com

Printed June 2009
Revised December 2009

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS
PREAMBLE

Rehabilitation counselors provide services within the Scope of Practice for Rehabilitation Counseling. They demonstrate beliefs, attitudes, knowledge, and skills, to provide competent counseling services and to work collaboratively with diverse groups of individuals, including clients, as well as with programs, institutions, employers, and service delivery systems and provide both direct (e.g., counseling) and indirect (e.g., case review, feasibility evaluation) services. Regardless of the specific tasks, work settings, or technology used, rehabilitation counselors demonstrate adherence to ethical standards and ensure the standards are vigorously enforced. The Code of Professional Ethics for Rehabilitation Counselors, henceforth referred to as the Code, is designed to provide guidance for the ethical practice of rehabilitation counselors.

The primary obligation of rehabilitation counselors is to clients, defined as individuals with or directly affected by a disability, functional limitation(s), or medical condition and who receive services from rehabilitation counselors. In some settings, clients may be referred to by other terms such as, but not limited to, consumers and service recipients. Rehabilitation counseling services may be provided to individuals other than those with disabilities. Rehabilitation counselors do not have clients in a forensic setting. The subjects of the objective and unbiased evaluations are evaluees. In all instances, the primary obligation remains to clients or evaluees and adherence to the Code is required.

The basic objectives of the Code are to: (1) promote public welfare by specifying ethical behavior expected of rehabilitation counselors; (2) establish principles that define ethical behavior and best practices of rehabilitation counselors; (3) serve as an ethical guide designed to assist rehabilitation counselors in constructing a professional course of action that best serves those utilizing rehabilitation services; and, (4) serve as the basis for the processing of alleged Code violations by certified rehabilitation counselors.

Rehabilitation counselors are committed to facilitating the personal, social, and economic independence of individuals with disabilities. In fulfilling this commitment, rehabilitation counselors recognize diversity and embrace a cultural approach in support of the worth, dignity, potential, and uniqueness of individuals with disabilities within their social and cultural context. They look to professional values as an important way of living out an ethical commitment. The primary values that serve as a foundation for this Code include a commitment to:

- Respecting human rights and dignity;
- Ensuring the integrity of all professional relationships;
- Acting to alleviate personal distress and suffering;
- Enhancing the quality of professional knowledge and its application to increase professional and personal effectiveness;
- Appreciating the diversity of human experience and culture; and,
- Advocating for the fair and adequate provision of services.

These values inform principles. They represent one important way of expressing a general ethical commitment that becomes more precisely defined and action-oriented when expressed as a
principle. The fundamental spirit of caring and respect with which the Code is written is based upon six principles of ethical behavior:

**Autonomy:** To respect the rights of clients to be self-governing within their social and cultural framework.

**Beneficence:** To do good to others; to promote the well-being of clients.

**Fidelity:** To be faithful; to keep promises and honor the trust placed in rehabilitation counselors.

**Justice:** To be fair in the treatment of all clients; to provide appropriate services to all.

**Nonmaleficence:** To do no harm to others.

**Veracity:** To be honest.

Although the Code provides guidance for ethical practice, it is impossible to address every possible ethical dilemma that rehabilitation counselors may face. When faced with ethical dilemmas that are difficult to resolve, rehabilitation counselors are expected to engage in a carefully considered ethical decision-making process. Reasonable differences of opinion can and do exist among rehabilitation counselors with respect to the ways in which values, ethical principles, and ethical standards would be applied when they conflict. While there is no specific ethical decision-making model that is most effective, rehabilitation counselors are expected to be familiar with and apply a credible model of decision-making that can bear public scrutiny. Rehabilitation counselors are aware that seeking consultation and/or supervision is an important part of ethical decision-making.

The Enforceable Standards within the Code are the exacting standards intended to provide guidance in specific circumstances and serve as the basis for processing complaints initiated against certified rehabilitation counselors.

Each Enforceable Standard is not meant to be interpreted in isolation. Instead, it is important for rehabilitation counselors to interpret standards in conjunction with other related standards in various sections of the Code. A brief glossary is located after Section L to provide readers with a concise description of some of the terms used in the Code.
ENFORCEABLE STANDARDS OF ETHICAL PRACTICE

SECTION A: THE COUNSELING RELATIONSHIP

A.1. WELFARE OF THOSE SERVED BY REHABILITATION COUNSELORS

a. PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY. The primary responsibility of rehabilitation counselors is to respect the dignity and to promote the welfare of clients. Clients are defined as individuals with, or directly affected by a disability, functional limitation(s), or medical condition and who receive services from rehabilitation counselors. At times, rehabilitation counseling services may be provided to individuals other than those with a disability. In all instances, the primary obligation of rehabilitation counselors is to promote the welfare of their clients.

b. REHABILITATION AND COUNSELING PLANS. Rehabilitation counselors and clients work jointly in devising and revising integrated, individual, and mutually agreed upon rehabilitation and counseling plans that offer a reasonable promise of success and are consistent with the abilities and circumstances of clients. Rehabilitation counselors and clients regularly review rehabilitation and counseling plans to assess continued viability and effectiveness.

c. EMPLOYMENT NEEDS. Rehabilitation counselors work with clients to consider employment consistent with the overall abilities, functional capabilities and limitations, general temperament, interest and aptitude patterns, social skills, education, general qualifications, transferable skills, and other relevant characteristics and needs of clients. Rehabilitation counselors assist in the placement of clients in available positions that are consistent with the interest, culture, and the welfare of clients and/or employers.

d. AUTONOMY. Rehabilitation counselors respect the rights of clients to make decisions on their own behalf. On decisions that may limit or diminish the autonomy of clients, decision-making on behalf of clients is taken only after careful deliberation. Rehabilitation counselors advocate for the resumption of responsibility by clients as quickly as possible.

A.2. RESPECTING DIVERSITY

a. RESPECTING CULTURE. Rehabilitation counselors demonstrate respect for the cultural background of clients in developing and implementing rehabilitation and treatment plans, and providing and adapting interventions.

b. NONDISCRIMINATION. Rehabilitation counselors do not condone or engage in discrimination based on age, color, race, national origin, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, religion/spirituality, sexual orientation, marital status/partnership, language preference, socioeconomic status, or any basis proscribed by law.
A.3. CLIENT RIGHTS IN THE COUNSELING RELATIONSHIP

a. PROFESSIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT. Rehabilitation counselors have an obligation to review with clients orally, in writing, and in a manner that best accommodates any of their limitation, the rights and responsibilities of both rehabilitation counselors and clients. Disclosure at the outset of the counseling relationship should minimally include: (1) the qualifications, credentials, and relevant experience of the rehabilitation counselor; (2) purposes, goals, techniques, limitations, and the nature of potential risks, and benefits of services; (3) frequency and length of services; (4) confidentiality and limitations regarding confidentiality (including how a supervisor and/or treatment team professional is involved); (5) contingencies for continuation of services upon the incapacitation or death of the rehabilitation counselor; (6) fees and billing arrangements; (7) record preservation and release policies; (8) risks associated with electronic communication; and, (9) legal issues affecting services. Rehabilitation counselors recognize that disclosure of these issues may need to be reiterated or expanded upon throughout the counseling relationship, and/or disclosure related to other matters may be required depending on the nature of services provided and matters that arise during the rehabilitation counseling relationship.

b. INFORMED CONSENT. Rehabilitation counselors recognize that clients have the freedom to choose whether to enter into or remain in a rehabilitation counseling relationship. Rehabilitation counselors respect the rights of clients to participate in ongoing rehabilitation counseling planning and to make decisions to refuse any services or modality changes, while also ensuring that clients are advised of the consequences of such refusal. Rehabilitation counselors recognize that clients need information to make an informed decision regarding services and that professional disclosure is required for informed consent to be an ongoing part of the rehabilitation counseling process. Rehabilitation counselors appropriately document discussions of disclosure and informed consent throughout the rehabilitation counseling relationship.

c. DEVELOPMENTAL AND CULTURAL SENSITIVITY. Rehabilitation counselors communicate information in ways that are both developmentally and culturally appropriate. Rehabilitation counselors provide services (e.g., arranging for a qualified interpreter or translator) when necessary to ensure comprehension by clients. In collaboration with clients, rehabilitation counselors consider cultural implications of informed consent procedures and, when possible, rehabilitation counselors adjust their practices accordingly.

d. INABILITY TO GIVE CONSENT. When counseling minors or persons unable to give voluntary consent, rehabilitation counselors seek the assent of clients and include clients in decision-making as appropriate. Rehabilitation counselors recognize the need to balance the ethical rights of clients to make choices, the mental or legal capacity of clients to give consent or assent, and parental, guardian, or familial legal rights and responsibilities to protect clients and make decisions on behalf of clients.

e. SUPPORT NETWORK INVOLVEMENT. Rehabilitation counselors recognize that support by others may be important to clients. Rehabilitation counselors consider enlisting the support,
understanding, and involvement of others (e.g., religious/spiritual/community leaders, family members, friends, and guardians) as resources, when appropriate, with consent from clients.

A.4. AVOIDING HARM AND AVOIDING VALUE IMPOSITION

a. AVOIDING HARM. Rehabilitation counselors act to avoid harming clients, trainees, supervisees, and research participants and to minimize or to remedy unavoidable or unanticipated harm.

b. PERSONAL VALUES. Rehabilitation counselors are aware of their values, attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors and avoid imposing values that are inconsistent with rehabilitation counseling goals.

A.5. ROLES AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH CLIENTS

a. PROHIBITION OF SEXUAL OR ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH CURRENT CLIENTS. Sexual or romantic rehabilitation counselor–client interactions or relationships with current clients, their romantic partners, or their immediate family members are prohibited.

b. SEXUAL OR ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH FORMER CLIENTS. Sexual or romantic rehabilitation counselor–client interactions or relationships with former clients, their romantic partners, or their immediate family members are prohibited for a period of five years following the last professional contact. Even after five years, rehabilitation counselors give careful consideration to the potential for sexual or romantic relationships to cause harm to former clients. In cases of potential exploitation and/or harm, rehabilitation counselors avoid entering such interactions or relationships.

c. PROHIBITION OF SEXUAL OR ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH CERTAIN FORMER CLIENTS. If clients have a history of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse or if clients have ever been diagnosed with any form of psychosis or personality disorder, mental retardation, marked cognitive impairment, or if clients are likely to remain in need of therapy due to the intensity or chronicity of a problem, rehabilitation counselors do not engage in sexual activities or sexual contact with former clients, regardless of the length of time elapsed since termination of the client relationship.

d. NONPROFESSIONAL INTERACTIONS OR RELATIONSHIPS OTHER THAN SEXUAL OR ROMANTIC INTERACTIONS OR RELATIONSHIPS. Rehabilitation counselors avoid nonprofessional relationships with clients, former clients, their romantic partners, or their immediate family members, except when such interactions are potentially beneficial to clients or former clients. In cases where nonprofessional interactions may be potentially beneficial to clients or former clients, rehabilitation counselors must document in case records, prior to interactions (when feasible), the rationale for such interactions, the potential benefits, and anticipated consequences for the clients or former clients and other involved parties. Such interactions are initiated with appropriate consent from clients and are time-limited (e.g., extended free-standing friendships are prohibited) or context specific (e.g., constrained to an organizational or community setting). Where unintentional harm occurs to clients or former clients, or to other involved parties, due to nonprofessional interactions,
rehabilitation counselors must show evidence of an attempt to remedy such harm. Examples of potentially beneficial interactions include, but are not limited to, attending a formal ceremony (e.g., a wedding/commitment ceremony or graduation); purchasing a service or product provided by clients or former clients (excepting unrestricted bartering); hospital visits to ill family members; or mutual membership in professional associations, organizations, or communities.

e. COUNSELING RELATIONSHIPS WITH FORMER ROMANTIC PARTNERS PROHIBITED. Rehabilitation counselors do not provide counseling services to individuals with whom they have had a prior sexual or romantic relationship.

f. ROLE CHANGES IN THE PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP. When rehabilitation counselors change roles from the original or most recent contracted relationship, they obtain informed consent from clients or evaluatees and explain the right to refuse services related to the change. Examples of role changes include: (1) changing from individual to group, relationship or family counseling, or vice versa; (2) changing from a forensic to a primary care role, or vice versa; (3) changing from a nonforensic evaluative role to a rehabilitation or therapeutic role, or vice versa; (4) changing from a rehabilitation counselor to a researcher role (e.g., enlisting clients as research participants), or vice versa; and, (5) changing from a rehabilitation counselor to a mediator role, or vice versa. The clients or evaluatees must be fully informed of any anticipated consequences (e.g., financial, legal, personal, or therapeutic) due to a role change by the rehabilitation counselor.

g. RECEIVING GIFTS. Rehabilitation counselors understand the challenges of accepting gifts from clients and recognize that in some cultures, small gifts are a token of respect and gratitude. When determining whether to accept gifts from clients, rehabilitation counselors take into account the cultural or community practice, therapeutic relationship, the monetary value of gifts, the motivation of the client for giving gifts, and the motivation of the rehabilitation counselor for accepting or declining gifts.

A.6. MULTIPLE CLIENTS
When rehabilitation counselors agree to provide counseling services to two or more persons who have a relationship (e.g., husband/wife; parent/child), rehabilitation counselors clarify at the outset which person is, or which persons are, to be served and the nature of the relationship rehabilitation counselors have with each involved person. If it becomes apparent that rehabilitation counselors may be called upon to perform potentially conflicting roles, rehabilitation counselors clarify, adjust, or withdraw from roles appropriately.

A.7. GROUP WORK

a. SCREENING. Rehabilitation counselors screen prospective group counseling/therapy participants. To the extent possible, rehabilitation counselors select members whose needs and goals are compatible with goals of the group, who do not impede the group process, and whose well-being is not jeopardized by the group experience.

b. PROTECTING CLIENTS. In a group setting, rehabilitation counselors take reasonable precautions to protect clients from harm or trauma.
A.8. TERMINATION AND REFERRAL

a. ABANDONMENT PROHIBITED. Rehabilitation counselors do not abandon or neglect clients in counseling. Rehabilitation counselors assist in making appropriate arrangements for the continuation of services when necessary (e.g., during interruptions such as vacations, illness, and following termination).

b. INITIAL DETERMINATION OF INABILITY TO ASSIST CLIENTS. If rehabilitation counselors determine they are unable to be of professional assistance to clients, rehabilitation counselors avoid entering such counseling relationships.

c. APPROPRIATE TERMINATION AND REFERRAL. Rehabilitation counselors terminate counseling relationships when it becomes reasonably apparent that clients no longer need assistance, are not likely to benefit, or are being harmed by continued counseling. Rehabilitation counselors may terminate counseling when in jeopardy of harm by clients or other persons with whom clients have a relationship, or when clients do not pay agreed-upon fees. Rehabilitation counselors provide pretermination counseling and recommend other clinically and culturally appropriate service sources when necessary.

d. APPROPRIATE TRANSFER OF SERVICES. When rehabilitation counselors transfer or refer clients to other practitioners, they ensure that appropriate counseling and administrative processes are completed in a timely manner and that open communication is maintained with both clients and practitioners. Rehabilitation counselors prepare and disseminate, to identified colleagues or records custodian, a plan for the transfer of clients and files in the case of their incapacitation, death, or termination of practice.

A.9. END-OF-LIFE CARE FOR TERMINALLY ILL CLIENTS

a. QUALITY OF CARE. Rehabilitation counselors take measures that enable clients to: (1) obtain high quality end-of-life care for their physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs; (2) exercise the highest degree of self-determination possible; (3) be given every opportunity possible to engage in informed decision-making regarding their end-of-life care; and, (4) receive complete and adequate assessment regarding their ability to make competent, rational decisions on their own behalf from mental health professionals who are experienced in end-of-life care practice.

b. REHABILITATION COUNSELOR COMPETENCE, CHOICE, AND REFERRAL. Rehabilitation counselors may choose to work or not work with terminally ill clients who wish to explore their end-of-life options. Rehabilitation counselors provide appropriate referral information if they are not competent to address such concerns.

c. CONFIDENTIALITY. Rehabilitation counselors who provide services to terminally ill individuals who are considering hastening their own deaths have the option of breaking or not breaking confidentiality on this matter, depending on applicable laws and the specific circumstances of the situation and after seeking consultation or supervision from appropriate professional and legal parties.
SECTION B: CONFIDENTIALITY, PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION, AND PRIVACY

B.1. RESPECTING CLIENT RIGHTS

a. CULTURAL DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS. Rehabilitation counselors maintain beliefs, attitudes, knowledge, and skills regarding cultural meanings of confidentiality and privacy. Rehabilitation counselors hold ongoing discussions with clients as to how, when, and with whom information is to be shared.

b. RESPECT FOR PRIVACY. Rehabilitation counselors respect privacy rights of clients. Rehabilitation counselors solicit private information from clients only when it is beneficial to the counseling process.

c. RESPECT FOR CONFIDENTIALITY. Rehabilitation counselors do not share confidential information without consent from clients or without sound legal or ethical justification.

d. EXPLANATION OF LIMITATIONS. At initiation and throughout the counseling process, rehabilitation counselors inform clients of the limitations of confidentiality and seek to identify foreseeable situations in which confidentiality must be breached.

B.2. EXCEPTIONS

a. DANGER AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS. The general requirement that rehabilitation counselors keep information confidential does not apply when disclosure is required to protect clients or identified others from serious and foreseeable harm, or when legal requirements demand that confidential information must be revealed. Rehabilitation counselors consult with other professionals when in doubt as to the validity of an exception.

b. CONTAGIOUS, LIFE-THREATENING DISEASES. When clients disclose that they have a disease commonly known to be both communicable and life threatening, rehabilitation counselors may be justified in disclosing information to identifiable third parties, if they are known to be at demonstrable and high risk of contracting the disease. Prior to making a disclosure, rehabilitation counselors confirm that there is such a diagnosis and assess the intent of clients to inform the third parties about their disease or to engage in any behaviors that may be harmful to identifiable third parties.

c. COURT-ORDERED DISCLOSURE. When subpoenaed to release confidential or privileged information without permission from clients, rehabilitation counselors obtain written, informed consent from clients or take steps to prohibit the disclosure or have it limited as narrowly as possible due to potential harm to clients or the counseling relationship. Whenever reasonable, rehabilitation counselors obtain a court directive to clarify the nature and extent of the response to a subpoena.
d. **MINIMAL DISCLOSURE.** When circumstances require the disclosure of confidential information, only essential information is revealed.

### B.3. INFORMATION SHARED WITH OTHERS

a. **WORK ENVIRONMENT.** Rehabilitation counselors make every effort to ensure that privacy and confidentiality of clients is maintained by employees, supervisees, students, clerical assistants, and volunteers.

b. **PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATION.** If rehabilitation of clients involves the sharing of their information among team members, clients are advised of this fact and are informed of the team’s existence and composition. Rehabilitation counselors carefully consider implications for clients in extending confidential information if participating in their service teams.

c. **CLIENTS SERVED BY OTHERS.** When rehabilitation counselors learn that clients have an ongoing professional relationship with another rehabilitation counselor or treating professional, they request release from clients to inform the other professionals and strive to establish a positive and collaborative professional relationship. File review, second-opinion services, and other indirect services are not considered an ongoing professional relationship.

d. **CLIENT ASSISTANTS.** When clients are accompanied by an individual providing assistance to clients (e.g., interpreter, personal care assistant), rehabilitation counselors ensure that the assistant is apprised of the need to maintain and document confidentiality. At all times, clients retain the right to decide who can be present as client assistants.

e. **CONFIDENTIAL SETTINGS.** Rehabilitation counselors discuss confidential information only in offices or settings in which they can reasonably ensure the privacy of clients.

f. **THIRD-PARTY Payers.** Rehabilitation counselors disclose information to third-party payers only when clients have authorized such disclosure, unless otherwise required by law or statute.

g. **DECEASED CLIENTS.** Rehabilitation counselors protect the confidentiality of deceased clients, consistent with legal requirements and agency policies.

### B.4. GROUPS AND FAMILIES

a. **GROUP WORK.** In group work, rehabilitation counselors clearly explain the importance and parameters of confidentiality for the specific group being entered.

b. **COUPLES AND FAMILY COUNSELING.** In couples and family counseling, rehabilitation counselors clearly define who the clients are and discuss expectations and limitations of confidentiality. Rehabilitation counselors seek agreement and document in writing such agreement among all involved parties having capacity to give consent concerning each individual’s right to confidentiality. Rehabilitation counselors clearly define whether they share or do not share information with family members that is privately, individually communicated to rehabilitation counselors.
B.5. RESPONSIBILITY TO MINORS OR CLIENTS LACKING CAPACITY TO CONSENT

a. RESPONSIBILITY TO CLIENTS. When counseling minor clients or adult clients who lack the capacity to give voluntary, informed consent, rehabilitation counselors protect the confidentiality of information received in the counseling relationship as specified by national or local laws, written policies, and applicable ethical standards.

b. RESPONSIBILITY TO PARENTS AND LEGAL GUARDIANS. Rehabilitation counselors inform parents and legal guardians about the role of rehabilitation counselors and the confidential nature of the counseling relationship. Rehabilitation counselors are sensitive to the cultural diversity of families and respect the inherent rights and responsibilities of parents/guardians over the welfare of their children/charges according to law. Rehabilitation counselors work to establish, as appropriate, collaborative relationships with parents/guardians to best serve clients.

c. RELEASE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. When minor clients or adult clients lack the capacity to give voluntary consent to release confidential information, rehabilitation counselors seek permission from parents or legal guardians to disclose information. In such instances, rehabilitation counselors inform clients consistent with their level of understanding and take culturally appropriate measures to safeguard the confidentiality of clients.

B.6. RECORDS

a. REQUIREMENT OF RECORDS. Rehabilitation counselors include sufficient and timely documentation in the records of their clients to facilitate the delivery and continuity of needed services. Rehabilitation counselors take reasonable steps to ensure that documentation in records accurately reflects progress and services provided to clients. If errors are made in records, rehabilitation counselors take steps to properly note the correction of such errors according to agency or institutional policies.

b. CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS. Rehabilitation counselors ensure that records are kept in a secure location and that only authorized persons have access to records.

c. CLIENT ACCESS. Rehabilitation counselors recognize that counseling records are kept for the benefit of clients and therefore provide access to records and copies of records when requested by clients, unless prohibited by law. In instances where the records contain information that may be sensitive, confusing, or detrimental to clients, rehabilitation counselors have a responsibility to educate clients regarding such information. In situations involving multiple clients, access to records is limited to those parts of records that do not include confidential information related to other clients. When rehabilitation counselors are in possession of records from other sources, they refer clients back to the original source.

d. DISCLOSURE OR TRANSFER. Unless exceptions to confidentiality exist, rehabilitation counselors obtain written permission from clients to disclose or transfer records to legitimate
third parties. Steps are taken to ensure that recipients of counseling records are sensitive to their confidential nature.

e. STORAGE AND DISPOSAL AFTER TERMINATION. Rehabilitation counselors store the records of their clients following termination of services to ensure reasonable future access, maintain records in accordance with national or local statutes governing records, and dispose of records and other sensitive materials in a manner that protects the confidentiality of clients.

f. REASONABLE PRECAUTIONS. Rehabilitation counselors take reasonable precautions to protect the confidentiality of clients in the event of disaster or termination of practice, incapacity, or death of the rehabilitation counselor.

B.7. CONSULTATION

a. AGREEMENTS. When acting as consultants, rehabilitation counselors seek agreement among parties involved concerning each individual’s right to confidentiality, the obligation of each individual to preserve confidential information, and the limits of confidentiality of information shared by others.

b. RESPECT FOR PRIVACY. Rehabilitation counselors discuss information obtained in consultation only with persons directly involved with the case. Written and oral reports presented by rehabilitation counselors contain only data germane to the purposes of the consultation, and every effort is made to protect the identity of clients and to avoid undue invasion of privacy.

c. DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. When consulting with colleagues, rehabilitation counselors do not disclose confidential information that reasonably could lead to the identification of clients or other persons or organizations with whom they have a confidential relationship unless they have obtained the prior consent of the persons or organizations or the disclosure cannot be avoided. They disclose information only to the extent necessary to achieve the purpose of the consultation.

SECTION C: ADVOCACY AND ACCESSIBILITY

C.1. ADVOCACY

a. ATTITUDINAL BARRIERS. In direct service with clients, rehabilitation counselors address attitudinal barriers, including stereotyping and discrimination, toward individuals with disabilities. They increase their own awareness and sensitivity to individuals with disabilities.

b. ADVOCACY. Rehabilitation counselors provide clients with appropriate information to facilitate their self-advocacy actions whenever possible. They work with clients to help them understand their rights and responsibilities, speak for themselves, make decisions, and contribute to society. When appropriate and with the consent of clients, rehabilitation counselors act as advocates on behalf of clients at the local, regional, and/or national levels.
c. ADVOCACY IN OWN AGENCY AND WITH COOPERATING AGENCIES. Rehabilitation counselors remain aware of actions taken by their own and cooperating agencies on behalf of clients and act as advocates for clients who cannot advocate for themselves to ensure effective service delivery.

d. ADVOCACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY. Rehabilitation counselors obtain the consent of clients prior to engaging in advocacy efforts on behalf of specific, identifiable clients to improve the provision of services and to work toward removal of systemic barriers or obstacles that inhibit access, growth, and development of clients.

e. AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE AND COMPETENCY. Rehabilitation counselors are knowledgeable about local, regional, and national systems and laws, and how they affect access to employment, education, transportation, housing, financial benefits, and medical services for people with disabilities. They obtain sufficient training in these systems in order to advocate effectively for clients and/or to facilitate self-advocacy of clients in these areas.

f. KNOWLEDGE OF BENEFIT SYSTEMS. Rehabilitation counselors are aware that disability benefit systems directly affect the quality of life of clients. They provide accurate and timely information or appropriate resources and referrals for these benefits.

C.2. ACCESSIBILITY

a. COUNSELING PRACTICE. Rehabilitation counselors facilitate the provision of necessary accommodations, including physically and programmatically accessible facilities and services to individuals with disabilities.

b. BARRIERS TO ACCESS. Rehabilitation counselors collaborate with clients and/or others to identify barriers based on the functional limitations of clients. They communicate information on barriers to public and private authorities to facilitate removal of barriers to access.

c. REFERRAL ACCESSIBILITY. Prior to referring clients to a program, facility, or employment setting, rehabilitation counselors assist clients in ensuring that these are appropriately accessible, and do not engage in discrimination based on age, color, race, national origin, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, religion/spirituality, sexual orientation, marital status/partnership, language preference, socioeconomic status, or any basis proscribed by law.

SECTION D: PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

D.1. PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE

a. BOUNDARIES OF COMPETENCE. Rehabilitation counselors practice only within the boundaries of their competence, based on their education, training, supervised experience, professional credentials, and appropriate professional experience. Rehabilitation counselors demonstrate beliefs, attitudes, knowledge, and skills pertinent to working with diverse client populations. Rehabilitation counselors do not misrepresent their role or competence to clients.
b. NEW SPECIALTY AREAS OF PRACTICE. Rehabilitation counselors practice in specialty areas new to them only after having obtained appropriate education, training, and supervised experience. While developing skills in new specialty areas, rehabilitation counselors take steps to ensure the competence of their work and to protect clients from possible harm.

c. QUALIFIED FOR EMPLOYMENT. Rehabilitation counselors accept employment for positions for which they are qualified by education, training, supervised experience, professional credentials, and appropriate professional experience. Rehabilitation counselors hire individuals for rehabilitation counseling positions who are qualified and competent for those positions.

d. MONITOR EFFECTIVENESS. Rehabilitation counselors continually monitor their effectiveness as professionals and take steps to improve when necessary. Rehabilitation counselors take reasonable steps to seek peer supervision as needed to evaluate their efficacy as rehabilitation counselors.

e. CONTINUING EDUCATION. Rehabilitation counselors recognize the need for continuing education to acquire and maintain a reasonable level of awareness of current scientific and professional information in their fields of activity. They take steps to maintain competence in the skills they use, are open to new procedures, and keep current with the diverse populations and specific populations with whom they work.

D.2. CULTURAL COMPETENCE/DIVERSITY

a. INTERVENTIONS. Rehabilitation counselors develop and adapt interventions and services to incorporate consideration of cultural perspective of clients and recognition of barriers external to clients that may interfere with achieving effective rehabilitation outcomes.

b. NONDISCRIMINATION. Rehabilitation counselors do not discriminate against clients, students, employees, supervisees, or research participants in a manner that has a negative effect on these persons.

D.3. FUNCTIONAL COMPETENCE

a. IMPAIRMENT. Rehabilitation counselors are alert to the signs of impairment from their own physical, mental, or emotional problems, and refrain from offering or providing professional services when such impairment is likely to harm clients or others. They seek assistance for problems that reach the level of professional impairment, and, if necessary, they limit, suspend, or terminate their professional responsibilities until such time it is determined that they may safely resume their work. Rehabilitation counselors assist colleagues or supervisors in recognizing their own professional impairment and provide consultation and assistance when warranted with colleagues or supervisors showing signs of impairment and intervene as appropriate to prevent harm to clients.

b. DISASTER PREPARATION AND RESPONSE. Rehabilitation counselors make reasonable efforts to plan for facilitating continued services for clients in the event that
rehabilitation counseling services are interrupted by disaster, such as acts of violence, terrorism, or a natural disaster.

D.4. PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

a. ACCURATE REPRESENTATION. Rehabilitation counselors claim or imply only professional qualifications actually completed and correct any known misrepresentations of their qualifications by others. Rehabilitation counselors truthfully represent the qualifications of their professional colleagues. Rehabilitation counselors clearly distinguish between accredited and non-accredited degrees, paid and volunteer work experience, and accurately describe their continuing education and specialized training.

b. CREDENTIALS. Rehabilitation counselors claim only licenses or certifications that are current and in good standing.

c. EDUCATIONAL DEGREES. Rehabilitation counselors clearly differentiate between earned and honorary degrees.

d. IMPLYING DOCTORAL-LEVEL COMPETENCE. Rehabilitation counselors refer to themselves as “doctor” in a counseling context only when their doctorate is in counseling or a closely related field from an accredited university.

D.5. RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PUBLIC AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS

a. SEXUAL HARASSMENT. Rehabilitation counselors do not condone or participate in sexual harassment.

b. REPORTS TO THIRD PARTIES. Rehabilitation counselors are accurate, honest, and objective in reporting their professional activities and judgments to appropriate third parties, including courts, health insurance companies, those who are the recipients of evaluation reports, and others.

c. MEDIA PRESENTATIONS. When rehabilitation counselors provide advice or comment by means of public lectures, demonstrations, radio or television programs, prerecorded tapes, technology based applications, printed articles, mailed materials, or other media, they take reasonable precautions to ensure that: (1) the statements are based on appropriate professional counseling literature and practice; (2) the statements are otherwise consistent with the Code; and, (3) the recipients of the information are not encouraged to infer that a professional rehabilitation counseling relationship has been established.

d. EXPLOITATION OF OTHERS. Rehabilitation counselors do not exploit others in their professional relationships to seek or receive unjustified personal gains, sexual favors, unfair advantages, or unearned goods or services.

e. CONFLICT OF INTEREST. Rehabilitation counselors recognize that their own personal values, moral beliefs, or personal and professional relationships may interfere with their ability
to practice competently. Under such circumstances, rehabilitation counselors are obligated to decline participation or to limit their assistance in a manner consistent with professional obligations.

f. VERACITY. Rehabilitation counselors do not engage in any act or omission of a dishonest, deceitful, or fraudulent nature in the conduct of their professional activities.

g. DISPARAGING REMARKS. Rehabilitation counselors do not disparage individuals or groups of individuals.

h. PERSONAL PUBLIC STATEMENTS. When making personal statements in a public context, rehabilitation counselors clarify that they are speaking from their personal perspective and that they are not speaking on behalf of all rehabilitation counselors, the profession, or any professional organizations with which they may be affiliated.

D.6. SCIENTIFIC BASES FOR INTERVENTIONS

a. TECHNIQUES/PROCEDURES/MODALITIES. Rehabilitation counselors use techniques/procedures/modalities that are grounded in theory and/or have an empirical or scientific foundation. When using techniques/procedures/modalities that are not grounded in theory and/or do not have an empirical or scientific foundation, rehabilitation counselors define the techniques/procedures/modalities as unproven or developing. They explain the potential risks and ethical considerations of using such techniques/procedures/modalities and take steps to protect clients from possible harm.

b. CREDIBLE RESOURCES. Rehabilitation counselors ensure that the resources used or accessed in counseling are credible and valid (e.g., Internet link, books used in bibliotherapy).

SECTION E: RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER PROFESSIONALS

E.1. RELATIONSHIPS WITH COLLEAGUES, EMPLOYERS, AND EMPLOYEES

a. CULTURAL COMPETENCY CONSIDERATIONS. Rehabilitation counselors maintain beliefs, attitudes, knowledge, and skills regarding their interactions with people across cultures. Rehabilitation counselors are respectful of approaches to counseling services that differ from their own and of traditions and practices of other professional groups with which they work.

b. QUESTIONABLE CONDITIONS. Rehabilitation counselors alert their employers to conditions or inappropriate policies or practices that may be potentially disruptive or damaging to the professional responsibilities of rehabilitation counselors or that may limit their effectiveness. In those instances where rehabilitation counselors are critical of policies, they attempt to affect changes in such policies or procedures through constructive action within the organization. Such action may include referral to appropriate certification, accreditation, or licensure organizations, or voluntary termination of employment.

c. EMPLOYER POLICIES. The acceptance of employment in an agency or institution implies that rehabilitation counselors are in agreement with its general policies and principles.
Rehabilitation counselors strive to reach agreement with employers as to acceptable standards of conduct that allow for changes in employer policies conducive to the growth and development of clients.

d. PROTECTION FROM PUNITIVE ACTION. Rehabilitation counselors take care not to harass or dismiss employees who have acted in a responsible and ethical manner to expose inappropriate employer policies or practices.

e. PERSONNEL SELECTION AND ASSIGNMENT. Rehabilitation counselors select competent staff and assign responsibilities compatible with their skills and experiences.

f. DISCRIMINATION. Rehabilitation counselors, as either employers or employees, engage in fair practices with regard to hiring, promoting, and training.

E.2. CONSULTATION

a. CONSULTATION AS AN OPTION. Rehabilitation counselors may choose to consult with professionally competent persons about their clients. In choosing consultants, rehabilitation counselors avoid placing consultants in a conflict of interest situation that precludes the consultant from being a proper party to the efforts of rehabilitation counselors to help clients. If rehabilitation counselors are engaged in a work setting that compromises this consultation standard, they consult with other professionals whenever possible to consider justifiable alternatives.

b. CONSULTANT COMPETENCY. Rehabilitation counselors take reasonable steps to ensure that they have the appropriate resources and competencies when providing consultation services. Rehabilitation counselors provide appropriate referral resources when requested or needed.

c. INFORMED CONSENT IN CONSULTATION. When providing consultation, rehabilitation counselors have an obligation to review, in writing and verbally, the rights and responsibilities of both rehabilitation counselors and consultees. Rehabilitation counselors use clear and understandable language to inform all parties involved about the purpose of the services to be provided, relevant costs, potential risks and benefits, and the limits of confidentiality. Working in conjunction with the consultees, rehabilitation counselors attempt to develop a clear definition of the problem, goals for change, and predicted consequences of interventions that are culturally responsive and appropriate to the needs of consultees.

E.3. AGENCY AND TEAM RELATIONSHIPS

a. CLIENTS AS TEAM MEMBER. Rehabilitation counselors ensure that clients and/or their legally recognized representatives are afforded the opportunity for full participation in decisions related to the services they receive. Only those with a need to know are allowed access to the information of clients, and only then upon a properly executed release of information request or upon receipt of a court order.

b. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAMWORK. Rehabilitation counselors who are members of interdisciplinary teams delivering multifaceted services to clients must keep the focus on how to
serve clients best. They participate in and contribute to decisions that affect the well-being of clients by drawing on the perspectives, values, and experiences of the counseling profession and those of colleagues from other disciplines.

c. COMMUNICATION. Rehabilitation counselors ensure that there is fair and mutual understanding of rehabilitation plans by all parties cooperating in the rehabilitation of clients.

d. ESTABLISHING PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS. Rehabilitation counselors who are members of interdisciplinary teams clarify professional and ethical obligations of the team as a whole and of its individual members. Rehabilitation counselors implement team decisions in rehabilitation plans and procedures, even when not personally agreeing with such decisions, unless these decisions breach the Code. When team decisions raise ethical concerns, rehabilitation counselors first attempt to resolve the concerns within the team. If they cannot reach resolution among team members, rehabilitation counselors consider other approaches to address their concerns consistent with the well-being of clients.

e. REPORTS. Rehabilitation counselors secure from other specialists appropriate reports and evaluations when such reports are essential for rehabilitation planning and/or service delivery.

SECTION F: FORENSIC AND INDIRECT SERVICES

F.1. CLIENT OR EVALUeree RIGHTS

a. PRIMARY OBLIGATIONS. Rehabilitation counselors produce unbiased, objective opinions and findings that can be substantiated by information and methodologies appropriate to the evaluation, which may include examination of individuals, research, and/or review of records. Rehabilitation counselors form opinions based on their professional knowledge and expertise that can be supported by the data gathered in evaluations. Rehabilitation counselors define the limits of their opinions or testimony, especially when an examination of individuals has not been conducted. Rehabilitation counselors acting as expert witnesses generate written documentation, either in the form of case notes or a report, as to their involvement and/or conclusions.

b. INFORMED CONSENT. Individuals being evaluated are informed in writing that the relationship is for the purpose of an evaluation and that a report of findings may be produced. Written consent for evaluations are obtained from those being evaluated or the individuals’ legal representatives/guardians unless: (1) there is a clinical or cultural reason that this is not possible; (2) a court or legal jurisdiction orders evaluations to be conducted without the written consent of individuals being evaluated; and/or (3) deceased evaluatees are the subject of evaluations. If written consent is not obtained, rehabilitation counselors document verbal consent and the reasons why obtaining written consent was not possible. When minors or vulnerable adults are evaluated, informed consent is obtained from parents or guardians.

c. DUAL ROLES. Rehabilitation counselors do not evaluate current or former clients for forensic purposes except under the conditions noted in A.5.f. or government statute. Likewise, rehabilitation counselors do not provide direct services to evaluatees whom they have previously provided forensic services in the past except under the conditions noted in A.5.f. or government
practitioners. In a forensic setting, rehabilitation counselors who are engaged as expert witnesses have no clients. The persons who are the subject of objective and unbiased evaluations are considered to be evaluees.

d. INDIRECT SERVICE PROVISION. Rehabilitation counselors who are employed by third parties as case consultants or expert witnesses, and who engage in communication with clients or evaluees, fully disclose to individuals (and/or their designees) the role of the rehabilitation counselor and limits of the relationship. Communication includes all forms of written or oral interactions. When there is no intent to provide rehabilitation counseling services directly to clients or evaluees and when there is no in-person meeting or other communication, disclosure by rehabilitation counselors is not required.

e. CONFIDENTIALITY. When rehabilitation counselors are required by law, employers’ policies, or extraordinary circumstances to serve in more than one role in judicial or administrative proceedings, they clarify role expectations and the parameters of confidentiality with their colleagues and with evaluees.

F.2. REHABILITATION COUNSELOR FORENSIC COMPETENCY AND CONDUCT

a. OBJECTIVITY. Rehabilitation counselors are aware of the standards governing their roles in performing forensic activities. Rehabilitation counselors are aware of the occasionally competing demands placed upon them by these standards and the requirements of the legal system, and attempt to resolve these conflicts by making known their commitment to this Code and taking steps to resolve conflicts in a responsible manner.

b. QUALIFICATION TO PROVIDE EXPERT TESTIMONY. Rehabilitation counselors have an obligation to present to the court, regarding specific matters to which they testify, the boundaries of their competence, the factual bases (knowledge, skill, experience, training, and education) for their qualifications as an expert, and the relevance of those factual bases to their qualifications as an expert on the specific matters at issue.

c. AVOID POTENTIALLY HARMFUL RELATIONSHIPS. Rehabilitation counselors who provide forensic evaluations avoid potentially harmful professional or personal relationships with individuals being evaluated, family members, romantic partners, and close friends of individuals they are evaluating. There may be circumstances however where not entering into professional or personal relationships is potentially more detrimental than providing services. When such is the case, rehabilitation counselors perform and document a risk assessment via use of an ethical decisionmaking model in order to arrive at an informed decision.

d. CONFLICT OF INTEREST. Rehabilitation counselors recognize that their own personal values, moral beliefs, or personal and professional relationships with parties to a legal proceeding may interfere with their ability to practice competently. Under such circumstances, rehabilitation counselors are obligated to decline participation or to limit their assistance in a manner consistent with professional obligations.
e. VALIDITY OF RESOURCES CONSULTED. Rehabilitation counselors ensure that the resources used or accessed in supporting opinions are credible and valid.

f. FOUNDATION OF KNOWLEDGE. Because of their special status as persons qualified as experts to the court, rehabilitation counselors have an obligation to maintain current knowledge of scientific, professional, and legal developments within their area of claimed competence. They are obligated also to use that knowledge, consistent with accepted clinical and scientific standards, in selected data collection methods and procedures for evaluation, treatment, consultation, or scholarly/empirical investigations.

g. DUTY TO CONFIRM INFORMATION. Where circumstances reasonably permit, rehabilitation counselors seek to obtain independent and personal verification of data relied upon as part of their professional services to the court or to parties to the legal proceedings.

h. CRITIQUE OF OPPOSING WORK PRODUCT. When evaluating or commenting upon the professional work products or qualifications of other experts or parties to legal proceedings, rehabilitation counselors represent their professional disagreements with reference to a fair and accurate evaluation of the data, theories, standards, and opinions of other experts or parties.

F.3. FORENSIC PRACTICES

a. CASE ACCEPTANCE AND INDEPENDENT OPINION. While all rehabilitation counselors have the discretionary right to accept retention in any case or proceed within their area(s) of expertise, they decline involvement in any case when asked to take or support predetermined positions, assume invalid representation of facts, alter their methodology or process without foundation or compelling reasons, or where there are ethical concerns about the nature of the requested assignments.

b. TERMINATION AND ASSIGNMENT TRANSFER. If necessary to withdraw from a case after having been retained, rehabilitation counselors make reasonable efforts to assist evaluatees and/or referral sources in locating another rehabilitation counselor to take over the assignment.

F.4. FORENSIC BUSINESS PRACTICES

a. PAYMENTS AND OUTCOME. Rehabilitation counselors do not enter into financial commitments that may compromise the quality of their services or otherwise raise questions as to their credibility. Rehabilitation counselors neither give nor receive commissions, rebates, contingency or referral fees, gifts, or any other form of remuneration when accepting cases or referring evaluatees for professional services. While liens should be avoided, they are sometimes standard practice in particular trial settings. Payment is never contingent on outcome or awards.

b. FEE DISPUTES. Should fee disputes arise during the course of evaluating cases and prior to trial, rehabilitation counselors have the ability to discontinue their involvement in cases as long as no harm comes to evaluatees.
SECTION G: EVALUATION, ASSESSMENT, AND INTERPRETATION

G.1. INFORMED CONSENT

a. EXPLANATION TO CLIENTS. Prior to assessment, rehabilitation counselors explain the nature and purposes of assessment and the specific use of results by potential recipients. The explanation is given in the language and/or developmental level of clients (or other legally authorized persons on behalf of clients), unless an explicit exception has been agreed upon in advance. Rehabilitation counselors consider personal or cultural context of clients, the level of their understanding of the results, and the impact of the results on clients. Regardless of whether scoring and interpretation are completed by rehabilitation counselors, by assistants, or by computer or other outside services, rehabilitation counselors take reasonable steps to ensure that appropriate explanations are given to clients.

b. RECIPIENTS OF RESULTS. Rehabilitation counselors consider the welfare of clients, explicit understandings, and prior agreements in determining who receives the assessment results. Rehabilitation counselors include accurate and appropriate interpretations with any release of individual or group assessment results. Issues of cultural diversity, when present, are taken into consideration when providing interpretations and releasing information.

G.2. RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO COMPETENT PROFESSIONALS

a. MISUSE OF RESULTS. Rehabilitation counselors do not misuse assessment results, including test results and interpretations, and take reasonable steps to prevent the misuse of such by others.

b. RELEASE OF DATA TO QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS. Rehabilitation counselors release assessment data in which clients are identified only with the consent of clients or their legal representatives, or court order. Such data is released only to professionals recognized as qualified to interpret the data.

G.3. PROPER DIAGNOSIS OF MENTAL DISORDERS

a. PROPER DIAGNOSIS. If within their professional and individual scope of practice, rehabilitation counselors take special care to provide proper diagnosis of mental disorders. Assessment techniques (including personal interviews) used to determine care of clients (e.g., focus of treatment, types of treatment, or recommended follow-up) are carefully selected and appropriately used.

b. CULTURAL SENSITIVITY. Rehabilitation counselors recognize that culture affects the manner in which the disorders of clients are defined. The socioeconomic and cultural experiences of clients are considered when diagnosing.

c. HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL PREJUDICES IN DIAGNOSIS AND THE DIAGNOSIS OF PATHOLOGY. Rehabilitation counselors recognize historical and social prejudices in the misdiagnosis and pathologizing of certain individuals and groups. Rehabilitation counselors may
refrain from making and/or reporting a diagnosis if they believe it would cause harm to clients or others.

G.4. COMPETENCE TO USE AND INTERPRET TESTS

a. LIMITS OF COMPETENCE. Rehabilitation counselors utilize only those testing and assessment services for which they have been trained and are competent. Rehabilitation counselors take reasonable measures to ensure the proper use of psychological and career assessment techniques by persons under their supervision. The requirement to develop this competency applies regardless of whether tests are administered through standard or technology-based methods.

b. APPROPRIATE USE. Rehabilitation counselors are responsible for the appropriate applications, scoring, interpretations, and use of assessment instruments relevant to the needs of clients, whether they score and interpret such assessments themselves or use technology or other services. Generally new instruments are used within one year of publication, unless rehabilitation counselors document a valid reason why the normative data from previous versions are more applicable to clients.

c. RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON RESULTS. Rehabilitation counselors are responsible for recommendations involving individuals that are based on assessment results, and have a thorough understanding of educational, psychological, and career measurements, including validation criteria, assessment research, and guidelines for assessment development and use. In addition to test results, rehabilitation counselors consider other factors present in the client’s situation (e.g., disability or cultural factors) before making any recommendations, when relevant.

d. ACCURATE INFORMATION. Rehabilitation counselors provide accurate information and avoid false claims or misconceptions when making statements about assessment instruments or techniques. Special efforts are made to avoid utilizing test results to make inappropriate diagnoses or inferences.

G.5. TEST SELECTION

a. APPROPRIATENESS OF INSTRUMENTS. Rehabilitation counselors carefully consider the validity, reliability, psychometric limitations, and appropriateness of instruments when selecting tests for use in given situations or with particular clients.

b. REFERRAL INFORMATION. If clients are referred to a third party for assessment, rehabilitation counselors provide specific referral questions and sufficient objective data about clients to ensure that appropriate assessment instruments are utilized.

c. CULTURALLY DIVERSE POPULATIONS. Rehabilitation counselors are cautious when selecting assessments for use with individuals from culturally diverse populations to avoid the use of instruments that lack appropriate psychometric properties for those client populations.

G.6. CONDITIONS OF TEST ADMINISTRATION
a. ADMINISTRATION CONDITIONS. Rehabilitation counselors administer assessments under the same conditions that were established in the standardized development of the instrument. When assessments are not administered under standard conditions, as may be necessary to accommodate clients with disabilities, or when unusual behavior or irregularities occur during the administration, those conditions are noted in interpretation, and the results may be designated as invalid or of questionable validity.

b. TECHNOLOGICAL ADMINISTRATION. When using technology or electronic methods to administer assessments, rehabilitation counselors ensure that the instruments are functioning properly and provide accurate results.

c. UNSUPERVISED TEST-TAKING. Rehabilitation counselors do not permit unsupervised or inadequately supervised use of tests or assessments unless the tests or assessments are designed, intended, and validated for self-administration and/or scoring.

G.7. TEST SCORING AND INTERPRETATION

a. REPORTING RESERVATIONS. In reporting assessment results, rehabilitation counselors indicate any reservations that exist regarding validity or reliability because of the circumstances of the assessments or the inappropriateness of the norms for persons tested.

b. CULTURAL DIVERSITY ISSUES IN ASSESSMENT. Rehabilitation counselors use caution with assessment techniques that were normed on populations other than that of the client. Rehabilitation counselors recognize the effects of age, color, race, national origin, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, religion/spirituality, sexual orientation, marital status/partnership, language preference, socioeconomic status, or any basis proscribed by law on test administrations and interpretations, and place test results in proper perspective with other relevant factors.

c. RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS. Rehabilitation counselors exercise caution when interpreting the results of research instruments not having sufficient technical data to support respondent results. The specific purposes for the use of such instruments are stated explicitly to examinees.

G.8. ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

a. ASSESSMENT SECURITY. Rehabilitation counselors maintain the integrity and security of tests and other assessment techniques consistent with legal and contractual obligations. Rehabilitation counselors do not appropriate, reproduce, or modify published assessments or parts thereof without acknowledgment and permission from the publisher.

b. OBSOLETE ASSESSMENT AND OUTDATED RESULTS. Rehabilitation counselors do not use data or results from assessments that are obsolete or outdated. Rehabilitation counselors make every effort to prevent the misuse of obsolete measures and assessment data by others.

c. ASSESSMENT CONSTRUCTION. Rehabilitation counselors use established scientific procedures, relevant standards, and current professional knowledge for assessment design in the
SECTION H: TEACHING, SUPERVISION, AND TRAINING

H.1. REHABILITATION COUNSELOR SUPERVISION AND CLIENT WELFARE

a. CLIENT WELFARE. Rehabilitation counselor supervisors meet regularly with supervisees to review case notes, samples of clinical work, or live observations in order to ensure the welfare of clients. Supervisees have a responsibility to understand and follow the Code.

b. REHABILITATION COUNSELOR CREDENTIALS. Rehabilitation counselor supervisors work to ensure that clients are aware of the qualifications of the supervisees who render services to clients.

c. INFORMED CONSENT AND CLIENT RIGHTS. Rehabilitation counselor supervisors make supervisees aware of the rights of clients including the protection of their privacy and confidentiality in the counseling relationship. Supervisees provide clients with professional disclosure information and inform them of how the supervision process influences the limits of confidentiality. Supervisees make clients aware of who has access to records of the counseling relationship and how these records are used.

H.2. REHABILITATION COUNSELOR SUPERVISION COMPETENCE

a. SUPERVISOR PREPARATION. Rehabilitation counselors who offer supervision services regularly pursue continuing education activities, including both counseling and supervision topics and skills.

b. CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN REHABILITATION COUNSELOR SUPERVISION. Rehabilitation counselor supervisors are aware of and address the role of cultural diversity in the supervisory relationship.

H.3. ROLES AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH SUPERVISEES OR TRAINEES

a. RELATIONSHIP BOUNDARIES WITH SUPERVISEES OR TRAINEES. Rehabilitation counselor supervisors or educators clearly define and maintain ethical professional, personal, and social relationships with their supervisees or trainees. Rehabilitation counselor supervisors or educators avoid nonprofessional relationships with current supervisees or trainees. If rehabilitation counselor supervisors or educators must assume other professional roles (e.g., clinical and/or administrative supervisors, instructors) with supervisees or trainees, they work to minimize potential conflicts and explain to supervisees or trainees the expectations and responsibilities associated with each role. They do not engage in any form of nonprofessional interactions that may compromise the supervisory relationship.

b. SEXUAL OR ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS. Rehabilitation counselors do not engage in sexual or romantic interactions or relationships with current supervisees or trainees.
c. EXPLOITATIVE RELATIONSHIPS. Rehabilitation counselors do not engage in exploitative relationships with individuals with whom they have supervisory, evaluative, or instructional control or authority.

d. SEXUAL HARASSMENT. Rehabilitation counselor supervisors or educators do not condone or subject supervisees or trainees to sexual harassment.

e. RELATIONSHIPS WITH FORMER SUPERVISEES OR TRAINEES. Rehabilitation counselor supervisors or educators are aware of the power differential in their relationships with supervisees or trainees. Rehabilitation counselor supervisors or educators foster open discussions with former supervisees or trainees when considering engaging in a social, sexual, or other intimate relationships. Rehabilitation counselor supervisors or educators discuss with the former supervisees or trainees how their former relationship may affect the change in relationship.

f. NONPROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS. Rehabilitation counselor supervisors or educators avoid nonprofessional or ongoing professional relationships with supervisees or trainees in which there is a risk of potential harm to supervisees or trainees or that may compromise the training experience or grades assigned. In addition, rehabilitation counselor supervisors or educators do not accept any form of professional services, fees, commissions, reimbursement, or remuneration from a site for supervisee or trainee placements.

g. CLOSE RELATIVES AND FRIENDS. Rehabilitation counselor supervisors or educators avoid accepting close relatives, romantic partners, or friends as supervisees or trainees. When such circumstances cannot be avoided, rehabilitation counselor supervisors or educators utilize a formal review mechanism.

h. POTENTIALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIPS. Rehabilitation counselor supervisors or educators are aware of the power differential in their relationships with supervisees or trainees. If they believe nonprofessional relationships with supervisees or trainees may be potentially beneficial to supervisees or trainees, they take precautions similar to those taken by rehabilitation counselors when working with clients. Examples of potentially beneficial interactions or relationships include attending a formal ceremony; hospital visits; providing support during a stressful event; or mutual membership in professional associations, organizations, or communities. Rehabilitation counselor supervisors or educators engage in open discussions with supervisees or trainees when they consider entering into relationships with them outside of their role as clinical and/or administrative supervisors. Before engaging in nonprofessional relationships, rehabilitation counselor supervisors or educators discuss the rationale for such interactions, potential benefits or drawbacks, and anticipated consequences with supervisees or trainees. Rehabilitation counselor supervisors or educators clarify the specific nature and limitations of the additional role(s) they have with supervisees or trainees. Nonprofessional relationships with supervisees or trainees are time-limited or context specific and initiated with their consent.
H.4. REHABILITATION COUNSELOR SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

a. DISCLOSURE AND INFORMED CONSENT FOR SUPERVISION. Rehabilitation counselor supervisors provide professional disclosure that, at a minimum, is consistent with the jurisdiction in which they practice. Rehabilitation counselor supervisors are responsible for incorporating into their supervision the principles of informed consent. Rehabilitation counselor supervisors inform supervisees of the policies and procedures to which they are to adhere and the mechanisms for due process appeal of individual supervisory actions.

b. EMERGENCIES AND ABSENCES. Rehabilitation counselor supervisors establish and communicate to supervisees the procedures for contacting them or, in their absence, alternative on-call supervisors to assist in handling crises.

c. STANDARDS FOR REHABILITATION COUNSELOR SUPERVISEES. Rehabilitation counselor supervisors make their supervisees aware of professional and ethical standards and legal responsibilities. Rehabilitation counselor supervisors of post-degree rehabilitation counselors encourage these rehabilitation counselors to adhere to professional standards of practice.

d. RESOLVING DIFFERENCES. When cultural, ethical, or professional issues are crucial to the viability of the supervisory relationship, both parties make efforts to resolve differences. When termination is warranted, rehabilitation counselor supervisors make appropriate referrals to possible alternative supervisors.

H.5. REHABILITATION COUNSELOR SUPERVISOR EVALUATION, REMEDIATION, AND ENDORSEMENT

a. EVALUATION. Rehabilitation counselor supervisors or educators clearly state to supervisees or trainees, prior to and throughout the training program, the levels of competency expected, appraisal methods, and timing of evaluations for both didactic and clinical competencies. Rehabilitation counselor supervisors or educators document and provide supervisees or trainees ongoing performance appraisal and evaluation feedback.

b. LIMITATIONS. Throughout ongoing evaluation and appraisal, rehabilitation counselor supervisors or educators are aware of and address the inability of some supervisees or trainees to achieve, improve, or maintain counseling competencies. Rehabilitation counselor supervisors or educators: (1) assist supervisees or trainees in securing remedial assistance when needed; (2) seek professional consultation and document their decision to dismiss or refer supervisees or trainees for assistance; (3) ensure that supervisees or trainees have recourse in a timely manner to address decisions that require them to seek assistance or to dismiss them; and (4) provide supervisees or trainees with due process according to organizational policies and procedures.

c. COUNSELING FOR SUPERVISEES. Rehabilitation counselor supervisors or educators address interpersonal competencies of supervisees or trainees in terms of the impact of these issues on clients, supervisory relationships, and professional functioning. With the exception of brief interventions to address situational distress, or as part of educational activities, rehabilitation counselor supervisors or educators do not provide counseling services to
supervisees or trainees. If supervisees or trainees request counseling or if counseling is required as part of a remediation process, rehabilitation counselor supervisors or educators provide them with referrals.

d. ENDORSEMENT. Rehabilitation counselor supervisors or educators endorse supervisees or trainees for certification, licensure, employment, or completion of academic or training programs based on satisfactory progress and observations while under supervision or training. Regardless of qualifications, supervisors or educators do not endorse supervisees or trainees whom they believe to be impaired in any way that would interfere with the performance of the duties associated with the endorsement.

H.6. RESPONSIBILITIES OF REHABILITATION COUNSELOR EDUCATORS

a. REHABILITATION COUNSELOR EDUCATORS. Rehabilitation counselor educators who are responsible for developing, implementing, and supervising educational programs are skilled as teachers and practitioners. They are knowledgeable regarding the ethical, legal, and regulatory aspects of the profession, are skilled in applying that knowledge, and make students aware of their responsibilities. Rehabilitation counselor educators conduct rehabilitation counselor education and training programs in an ethical manner and serve as role models for professional behavior.

b. INFUSING CULTURAL DIVERSITY. Rehabilitation counselor educators infuse material related to cultural diversity into all courses and workshops for the development of professional rehabilitation counselors.

c. INTEGRATION OF STUDY AND PRACTICE. Rehabilitation counselor educators establish education and training programs that integrate academic study and supervised practice.

d. TEACHING ETHICS. Rehabilitation counselor educators make students aware of their ethical responsibilities, standards of the profession, and the ethical responsibilities of students to the profession. Rehabilitation counselor educators infuse ethical considerations throughout the curriculum.

e. PEER RELATIONSHIPS. Rehabilitation counselor educators make every effort to ensure that the rights of peers are not compromised when students lead counseling groups or provide clinical supervision. Rehabilitation counselor educators take steps to ensure that students understand they have the same ethical obligations as rehabilitation counselor educators, trainers, and supervisors.

f. INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES/PROCEDURES/MODALITIES. When rehabilitation counselor educators teach counseling techniques/procedures/modalities that are innovative, without an empirical foundation or without a well-grounded theoretical foundation, they define the counseling techniques/procedures/modalities as unproven or developing and explain to students the potential risks and ethical considerations of using such techniques/procedures/modalities.
g. FIELD PLACEMENTS. Rehabilitation counselor educators develop clear policies within their training programs regarding field placement and other clinical experiences. Rehabilitation counselor educators provide clearly stated roles and responsibilities for students, site supervisors, and program supervisors. They confirm that site supervisors are qualified to provide supervision and inform site supervisors of their professional and ethical responsibilities in this role.

h. PROFESSIONAL DISCLOSURE. Before initiating counseling services, rehabilitation counselors-in-training disclose their status as students and explain how this status affects the limits of confidentiality. Rehabilitation counselor educators ensure that clients at field placement are aware of the services rendered and the qualifications of the students and supervisees rendering those services. Students obtain permission from clients before they use any information concerning the counseling relationship in the training process.

H.7. STUDENT WELFARE

a. ORIENTATION. Rehabilitation counselor educators recognize that orientation is a developmental process that continues throughout the educational and clinical training of students. Rehabilitation counselor educators have an ethical responsibility to provide enough information to prospective or current students about program expectations for them to make informed decisions about entering into and continuing in a program.

b. SELF-GROWTH EXPERIENCES. Rehabilitation counselor education programs delineate requirements for self-disclosure as part of self-growth experiences in their admission and program materials. Rehabilitation counselor educators use professional judgment when designing training experiences they conduct that require student self-growth or self-disclosure. Students are made aware of the ramifications their self-disclosure may have when rehabilitation counselors whose primary role as teachers, trainers, or supervisors require acting on ethical obligations to the profession. Evaluative components of experiential training experiences explicitly delineate predetermined academic standards that are separate and do not depend on the level of self-disclosure of students. As a condition to remain in the program, rehabilitation counselor educators may require that students seek professional help to address any personal concerns that may be affecting their competency.

H.8. CULTURAL DIVERSITY COMPETENCE IN REHABILITATION COUNSELOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

a. DIVERSITY. Rehabilitation counselor educators actively attempt to recruit and retain a diverse faculty and student body. Rehabilitation counselor educators demonstrate commitment to cultural diversity competence by recognizing and valuing diverse cultures and types of abilities faculty and students bring to the training experience. Rehabilitation counselor educators provide appropriate accommodations as required to enhance and support the well-being and performance of students.

b. CULTURAL DIVERSITY COMPETENCE. Rehabilitation counselor educators actively infuse cultural diversity competency into their training and supervision practices. They actively
educate trainees to develop and maintain beliefs, attitudes, knowledge, and skills necessary for competent practice with people across cultures.

SECTION I: RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

I.1. RESEARCH RESPONSIBILITIES

a. USE OF HUMAN PARTICIPANTS. Rehabilitation counselors plan, design, conduct, and report research in a manner that reflects cultural sensitivity, is culturally appropriate, and is consistent with pertinent ethical principles, laws, host institutional regulations, and scientific standards governing research with human participants. They seek consultation when appropriate.

b. DEVIATION FROM STANDARD PRACTICES. Rehabilitation counselors seek consultation and observe stringent safeguards to protect the rights of research participants when a research problem suggests a deviation from standard acceptable practices.

c. PRECAUTIONS TO AVOID INJURY. Rehabilitation counselors who conduct research with human participants are responsible for the welfare of participants throughout the research process and take reasonable precautions to avoid causing injurious psychological, emotional, physical, or social effects to participants.

d. PRINCIPAL RESEARCHER RESPONSIBILITY. The ultimate responsibility for ethical research practice lies with principal researchers. All others involved in the research activities share ethical obligations and responsibilities for their own actions.

e. MINIMAL INTERFERENCE. Rehabilitation counselors take precautions to avoid causing disruption in the lives of research participants that may result from their involvement in research.

I.2. INFORMED CONSENT AND DISCLOSURE

a. INFORMED CONSENT IN RESEARCH. Individuals have the right to consent to become research participants. In seeking consent, rehabilitation counselors use language that: (1) accurately explains the purpose and procedures to be followed; (2) identifies any procedures that are experimental or relatively untried; (3) describes any attendant discomforts and risks; (4) describes any benefits or changes in individuals or organizations that might be reasonably expected; (5) discloses appropriate alternative procedures that would be advantageous for participants; (6) offers to answer any inquiries concerning the procedures; (7) describes any limitations on confidentiality; (8) describes formats and potential target audiences for the dissemination of research findings; and (9) instructs participants that they are free to withdraw their consent and to discontinue participation in the project at any time without penalty.

b. DECEPTION. Rehabilitation counselors do not conduct research involving deception unless alternative procedures are not feasible. If such deception has the potential to cause physical or emotional harm to research participants, the research is not conducted, regardless of prospective value. When the methodological requirements of a study necessitate concealment or deception, the investigator explains the reasons for this action as soon as possible during the debriefing.
c. VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION. Participation in research is typically voluntary and without any penalty for refusal to participate. Involuntary participation is appropriate only when it can be demonstrated that participation has no harmful effects on participants and is essential to the research.

d. CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION. Information obtained about participants during the course of research is confidential. When the possibility exists that others may obtain access to such information, ethical research practice requires that the possibility, together with the plans for protecting confidentiality, be explained to participants as part of the procedures for obtaining informed consent.

e. INDIVIDUALS NOT CAPABLE OF GIVING INFORMED CONSENT. When individuals are not capable of giving informed consent, rehabilitation counselors provide an appropriate explanation to and obtain agreement for participation and appropriate consent from a legally authorized person.

f. COMMITMENTS TO PARTICIPANTS. Rehabilitation counselors take reasonable measures to honor all commitments to research participants.

g. EXPLANATIONS AFTER DATA COLLECTION. After data is collected, rehabilitation counselors provide participants with full clarification of the nature of the study to remove any misconceptions participants might have regarding the research. Where scientific or human values justify delaying or withholding information, rehabilitation counselors take reasonable measures to avoid causing harm.

h. AGREEMENT OF CONTRIBUTORS. Rehabilitation counselors who conduct joint research establish agreements in advance regarding allocation of tasks, publication credit, and types of acknowledgment received, and incur an obligation to cooperate as agreed.

i. INFORMING SPONSORS. Rehabilitation counselors inform sponsors, institutions, and publication channels regarding research procedures and outcomes. Rehabilitation counselors ensure that appropriate bodies and authorities are given pertinent information and acknowledgment.

I.3. REPORTING RESULTS

a. ACCURATE RESULTS. Rehabilitation counselors plan, conduct, and report research accurately. They provide thorough discussions of the limitations of their data and alternative hypotheses. Rehabilitation counselors do not engage in misleading or fraudulent research, distort data, misrepresent data, or deliberately bias their results. They explicitly mention all variables and conditions known to the investigator(s) that may have affected the outcome of studies or interpretations of data. They describe the extent to which results are applicable for diverse populations.
b. OBLIGATION TO REPORT UNFAVORABLE RESULTS. Rehabilitation counselors report the results of any research of professional value. Results that reflect unfavorably on institutions, programs, services, prevailing opinions, or vested interests are not withheld.

c. IDENTITY OF PARTICIPANTS. Rehabilitation counselors who supply data, aid in the research of another person, report research results, or make original data available, take due care to disguise the identity of respective participants in the absence of specific authorization from the participants to do otherwise. In situations where participants self-identify their involvement in research studies, researchers take active steps to ensure that data is adapted/changed to protect the identities and welfare of all parties and that discussion of results does not cause harm to participants.

d. REPORTING ERRORS. If rehabilitation counselors discover significant errors in their published research, they take reasonable steps to correct such errors in a correction erratum or through other appropriate publication means.

e. REPLICATION STUDIES. Rehabilitation counselors are obligated to make available sufficient original research data to qualified professionals who may wish to replicate the study.

I.4. PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS
a. RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS. When conducting and reporting research, rehabilitation counselors are familiar with and give recognition to previous work on the topic, observe copyright laws, and give full credit to those to whom credit is due.

b. CONTRIBUTORS. Rehabilitation counselors give credit through joint authorship, acknowledgment, footnote statements, or other appropriate means to those who have contributed significantly to research or concept development in accordance with such contributions. Principal contributors are listed first and minor technical or professional contributions are acknowledged in notes or introductory statements.

c. STUDENT RESEARCH. For articles that are substantially based on students’ course papers, projects, dissertations or theses of students, and for which students have been the primary contributors, they are listed as principal authors.

d. DUPLICATE SUBMISSION. Rehabilitation counselors submit manuscripts for consideration to only one journal at a time. Manuscripts that are published in whole or in substantial part in another journal or published work are not submitted for publication without acknowledgment and permission from the previous publication.

e. PROFESSIONAL REVIEW. Rehabilitation counselors who review material submitted for publication, research, or other scholarly purposes respect the confidentiality and proprietary rights of those who submitted it. Rehabilitation counselors use care to make publication decisions based on valid and defensible standards. Rehabilitation counselors review article submissions in a timely manner and based on their scope and competency in research methodologies. Rehabilitation counselors who serve as reviewers at the request of editors or
publishers make every effort to review only materials that are within their scope of competency and use care to avoid personal biases.

f. **PLAGIARISM.** Rehabilitation counselors do not plagiarize, that is, they do not present another person’s work as their own work.

g. **REVIEW/REPUBLICATION OF DATA OR IDEAS.** Rehabilitation counselors fully acknowledge and make editorial reviewers aware of prior publication of ideas or data where such ideas or data are submitted for review or publication.

h. **NONPROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS.** Rehabilitation counselors avoid nonprofessional relationships with research participants when research involves intensive or extensive interaction. When a nonprofessional interaction between researchers and research participants may be potentially beneficial, researchers must document, prior to the interaction (when feasible), the rationale for such interactions, the potential benefits, and anticipated consequences for research participants. Such interactions are initiated with appropriate consent of research participants. Where unintentional harm occurs to research participants due to nonprofessional interactions, researchers must show evidence of an attempt to remedy such harm.

i. **SEXUAL OR ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS.** Rehabilitation counselors do not engage in sexual or romantic rehabilitation counselor–research participant interactions or initiate relationships with current research participants.

j. **SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS.** Rehabilitation counselors do not condone or subject research participants to sexual harassment.

I.5. **CONFIDENTIALITY**

a. **INSTITUTIONAL APPROVAL.** When institutional review board approval is required, rehabilitation counselors provide accurate information about their research proposals and obtain approval prior to conducting their research. They conduct research in accordance with the approved research protocol.

b. **ADHERENCE TO GUIDELINES.** Rehabilitation counselors are responsible for understanding and adhering to national, local, agency, or institutional policies or applicable guidelines regarding confidentiality in their research practices.

c. **CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION OBTAINED IN RESEARCH.** Violations of participants’ privacy and confidentiality are risks of participation in research involving human participants. Investigators maintain all research records in a secure manner. They explain to participants the risks of violations of privacy and confidentiality and disclose to participants any limits of confidentiality that reasonably can be expected.

d. **DISCLOSURE OF RESEARCH INFORMATION.** Rehabilitation counselors do not disclose confidential information that reasonably could lead to the identification of research
participants unless they have obtained the prior consent of participants. Use of data derived from counseling relationships for purposes of training, research, or publication are confined to content that are disguised to ensure the anonymity of the individuals involved.

e. AGREEMENT FOR IDENTIFICATION. Rehabilitation counselors identify clients, students, or research participants in a presentation or publication only when it has been reviewed by those clients, students, or research participants and they have agreed to its presentation or publication.

SECTION J: TECHNOLOGY AND DISTANCE COUNSELING

J.1. BEHAVIOR AND IDENTIFICATION

a. APPLICATION AND COMPETENCE. Rehabilitation counselors are held to the same level of expected behavior and competence as defined by the Code regardless of the technology used (e.g., cellular phones, email, facsimile, video, audio, audio-visual) or its application (e.g., assessment, research, data storage).

b. PROBLEMATIC USE OF THE INTERNET. Rehabilitation counselors are aware of behavioral differences with the use of the Internet, and/or methods of electronic communication, and how these may impact the counseling process.

c. POTENTIAL MISUNDERSTANDINGS. Rehabilitation counselors educate clients on how to prevent and address potential misunderstandings arising from the lack of visual cues and voice intonations when communicating electronically.

J.2. ACCESSIBILITY

a. DETERMINING CLIENT CAPABILITIES. When providing technology-assisted services, rehabilitation counselors determine that clients are functionally and linguistically capable of using the application and that the technology is appropriate for the needs of clients. Rehabilitation counselors verify that clients understand the purpose and operation of technology applications and follow-up with clients to correct possible misconceptions, discover appropriate use, and assess subsequent steps.

b. ACCESSING TECHNOLOGY. Based on functional, linguistic, or cultural needs of clients, rehabilitation counselors guide clients in obtaining reasonable access to pertinent applications when providing technology-assisted services.

J.3. CONFIDENTIALITY, INFORMED CONSENT, AND SECURITY

a. CONFIDENTIALITY AND INFORMED CONSENT. Rehabilitation counselors ensure that clients are provided sufficient information to adequately address and explain the limits of: (1) technology used in the counseling process in general; (2) ensuring and maintaining complete confidentiality of client information transmitted through electronic means; (3) a colleague, supervisor, and an employee, such as an Information Technology (IT) administrator or
paraprofessional staff, who might have authorized or unauthorized access to electronic transmissions; (4) an authorized or unauthorized user including a family member and fellow employee who has access to any technology the client may use in the counseling process; (5) pertinent legal rights and limitations governing the practice of a profession over jurisdictional boundaries; (6) record maintenance and retention policies; (7) technology failure, unavailability, or crisis contact procedures; and, (8) protecting client information during the counseling process and at the termination of services.

b. TRANSMITTING CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. Rehabilitation counselors take precautions to ensure the confidentiality of information transmitted through the use of computers, email, facsimile machines, telephones, voicemail, answering machines, and other technology.

c. SECURITY. Rehabilitation counselors: (1) use encrypted and/or password-protected Internet sites and/or email communications to help ensure confidentiality when possible and take other reasonable precautions to ensure the confidentiality of information transmitted through the use of computers, email, facsimiles, telephones, voicemail, answering machines, or other technology; (2) notify clients of the inability to use encryption or password protection, the hazards of not using these security measures; and, (3) limit transmissions to general communications that are not specific to clients, and/or use non-descript identifiers.

d. IMPOSTERS. In situations where it is difficult to verify the identity of rehabilitation counselors, clients, their guardians, and/or team members, rehabilitation counselors: (1) address imposter concerns, such as using code words, numbers, graphics, or other non-descript identifiers; and (2) establish methods for verifying identities.

J.4. TECHNOLOGY-ASSISTED ASSESSMENT

Rehabilitation counselors using technology-assisted test interpretations abide by the ethical standards for the use of such assessments regardless of administration, scoring, interpretation, or reporting method and ensure that persons under their supervision are aware of these standards.

J.5. CONSULTATION GROUPS

When participating in electronic professional consultation or consultation groups (e.g., social networks, listservs, blogs, online courses, supervision, interdisciplinary teams), rehabilitation counselors: (1) establish and/or adhere to the group’s norms promoting behavior that is consistent with ethical standards, and (2) limit disclosure of confidential information.

J.6. RECORDS, DATA STORAGE, AND DISPOSAL

a. RECORDS MANAGEMENT. Rehabilitation counselors are aware that electronic messages are considered to be part of the records of clients. Since electronic records are preserved, rehabilitation counselors inform clients of the retention method and period, of who has access to the records, and how the records are destroyed.
b. PERMISSION TO RECORD. Rehabilitation counselors obtain permission from clients prior to recording sessions through electronic or other means.

c. PERMISSION TO OBSERVE. Rehabilitation counselors obtain permission from clients prior to observing counseling sessions, reviewing session transcripts, and/or listening to or viewing recordings of sessions with supervisors, faculty, peers, or others within the training environment.

J.7. LEGAL

a. ETHICAL/Legal REVIEW. Rehabilitation counselors review pertinent legal and ethical codes for possible violations emanating from the practice of distance counseling and/or supervision.

b. LAWS AND STATUTES. Rehabilitation counselors ensure that the use of technology does not violate the laws of any local, regional, national, or international entity, observe all relevant statutes, and seek business, legal, and technical assistance when using technology in such a manner.

J.8. ADVERTISING

a. ONLINE PRESENCE. Rehabilitation counselors maintaining sites on the Internet do so based on the advertising, accessibility, and cultural provisions of the Code. The Internet site is regularly maintained and includes avenues for communication with rehabilitation counselors.

b. VERACITY OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION. Rehabilitation counselors assist clients in determining the validity and reliability of information found on the Internet and/or other technology applications.

J.9. RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

a. INFORMED CONSENT. Rehabilitation counselors are aware of the limits of technology-based research with regards to privacy, confidentiality, participant identities, venues used, accuracy, and/or dissemination. They inform participants of those limitations whenever possible, and make provisions to safeguard the collection, dissemination, and storage of data collected.

b. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY. When rehabilitation counselors possess intellectual property of people or entities (e.g., audio, visual, or written historical or electronic media), they take reasonable precautions to protect the technological dissemination of that information through disclosure, informed consent, password protection, encryption, copyright, or other security/intellectual property protection means.

J.10. REHABILITATION COUNSELOR UNAVAILABILITY

a. TECHNOLOGICAL FAILURE. Rehabilitation counselors explain to clients the possibility of technology failure and provide an alternative means of communication.
b. **UNAVAILABILITY.** Rehabilitation counselors provide clients with instructions for contacting them when they are unavailable through technological means.

c. **CRISIS CONTACT.** Rehabilitation counselors provide referral information for at least one agency or rehabilitation counselor-on-call for purposes of crisis intervention for clients within their geographical region.

**J.11. DISTANCE COUNSELING CREDENTIAL DISCLOSURE**

Rehabilitation counselors practicing through Internet sites provide information to clients regarding applicable certification boards and/or licensure bodies to facilitate client rights and protection and to address ethical concerns.

**J.12. DISTANCE COUNSELING RELATIONSHIPS**

a. **BENEFITS AND LIMITATIONS.** Rehabilitation counselors inform clients of the benefits and limitations of using technology applications in the counseling process and in business procedures. Such technologies include, but are not limited to, computer hardware and/or software, telephones, the Internet and other audio and/or video communication, assessment, research, or data storage devices or media.

b. **INAPPROPRIATE APPLICATIONS.** When technology-assisted distance counseling services are deemed inappropriate by rehabilitation counselors or clients, rehabilitation counselors pursue services face-to-face or by other means.

c. **BOUNDARIES.** Rehabilitation counselors discuss and establish boundaries with clients, family members, service providers, and/or team members regarding the appropriate use and/or application of technology and the limits of its use within the counseling relationship.

**J.13. DISTANCE COUNSELING SECURITY AND BUSINESS PRACTICES**

a. **SELF-DESCRIPTION.** Rehabilitation counselors practicing through Internet sites provide information about themselves (e.g., ethnicity, gender) as would be available if the counseling were to take place face-to-face.

b. **INTERNET SITES.** Rehabilitation counselors practicing through Internet sites: (1) obtain the written consent of legal guardians or other authorized legal representatives prior to rendering services in the event clients are minor children, adults who are legally incompetent, or adults incapable of giving informed consent; and (2) strive to provide translation and interpretation capabilities for clients who have a different primary language while also addressing the imperfect nature of such translations or interpretations.

c. **BUSINESS PRACTICES.** As part of the process of establishing informed consent, rehabilitation counselors: (1) discuss time zone differences, local customs, and cultural or language differences that might impact service delivery; and (2) educate clients when technology-assisted distance counseling services are not covered by insurance.
J.14. DISTANCE GROUP COUNSELING

When participating in distance group counseling, rehabilitation counselors: (1) establish and/or adhere to the group’s norms promoting behavior that is consistent with ethical standards; and (2) limit disclosure of confidential information.

J.15. TEACHING, SUPERVISION, AND TRAINING AT A DISTANCE

Rehabilitation counselors, educators, supervisors, or trainers working with trainees or supervisees at a distance, disclose to trainees or supervisees the limits of technology in conducting distance teaching, supervision, and training.

SECTION K: BUSINESS PRACTICES

K.1. ADVERTISING AND SOLICITING CLIENTS

a. ACCURATE ADVERTISING. When advertising or otherwise representing their services to the public, rehabilitation counselors identify their credentials in an accurate manner that is not false, misleading, deceptive, or fraudulent.

b. TESTIMONIALS. Rehabilitation counselors who use testimonials do not solicit them from current clients or former clients or any other persons who may be vulnerable to undue influence.

c. STATEMENTS BY OTHERS. Rehabilitation counselors make reasonable efforts to ensure that statements made by others about them or the profession are accurate.

d. RECRUITING THROUGH EMPLOYMENT. Rehabilitation counselors do not use their places of employment or institutional affiliations to recruit or gain clients, supervisees, or consultees for their private practice.

e. PRODUCTS AND TRAINING ADVERTISEMENTS. Rehabilitation counselors who develop products related to their profession or conduct workshops or training events ensure that the advertisements concerning these products or events are accurate and disclose adequate information for clients to make informed choices.

f. PROMOTING TO THOSE SERVED. Rehabilitation counselors do not use counseling, teaching, training, or supervisory relationships to promote their products or training events in a manner that is deceptive or would exert undue influence on individuals who may be vulnerable. Rehabilitation counselor educators may adopt textbooks they have authored for appropriate instructional purposes.

K.2. CLIENT RECORDS

a. APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION. Rehabilitation counselors establish and maintain documentation consistent with agency policy that accurately, sufficiently, and in a timely manner
reflects the services provided and that identifies who provided the services. If case notes need to be altered, it is done in a manner that preserves the original notes and is accompanied by the date of change, information that identifies who made the change, and the rationale for the change.

b. PRIVACY. Documentation generated by rehabilitation counselors protects the privacy of clients to the extent that it is possible and includes only relevant or appropriate counseling information.

c. RECORDS MAINTENANCE. Rehabilitation counselors maintain records necessary for rendering professional services to clients and as required by applicable laws, regulations, or agency/institution procedures. Subsequent to file closure, records are maintained for the number of years consistent with jurisdictional requirements or for longer periods during which maintenance of such records is necessary or helpful to provide reasonably anticipated future services to clients. After that time, records are destroyed in a manner assuring preservation of confidentiality.

K.3. FEES, BARTERING, AND BILLING
a. ESTABLISHING FEES. In establishing fees for professional counseling services, rehabilitation counselors consider the financial status and locality of clients. In the event that the established fee structure is inappropriate for clients, rehabilitation counselors assist clients in attempting to find comparable services of acceptable cost.

b. ADVANCE UNDERSTANDING OF FEES. Prior to entering the counseling relationship, rehabilitation counselors clearly explain to clients all financial arrangements related to professional services. If rehabilitation counselors intend to use collection agencies or take legal measures to collect fees from clients who do not pay for services as agreed upon, they first inform clients of intended actions and offer clients the opportunity to make payment.

c. REFERRAL FEES. Rehabilitation counselors do not give or receive commissions, rebates, or any other form of remuneration when referring clients for professional services.

d. WITHHOLDING RECORDS FOR NONPAYMENT. Rehabilitation counselors may not withhold records under their control that are requested and needed for the emergency treatment of clients solely because payment has not been received.

e. BARTERING DISCOURAGED. Rehabilitation counselors ordinarily refrain from accepting goods or services from clients in return for rehabilitation counseling services because such arrangements create inherent potential for conflicts, exploitation, and distortion of the professional relationship. Rehabilitation counselors participate in bartering only if the relationship is not exploitative or harmful to clients, if clients request it, if a clear written contract is established, and if such arrangements are an accepted practice in the community or culture of clients.

f. BILLING RECORDS. Rehabilitation counselors establish and maintain billing records that are confidential and accurately reflect the services provided, the time engaged in the activity, and that clearly identify who provided the services.
K.4. TERMINATION

Rehabilitation counselors in fee-for-service relationships may terminate services with clients due to nonpayment of fees under the following conditions: (1) clients were informed of payment responsibilities and the effects of nonpayment or the termination of payment by third parties; and (2) clients do not pose an imminent danger to self or others. As appropriate, rehabilitation counselors refer clients to other qualified professionals to address issues unresolved at the time of termination.

SECTION L: RESOLVING ETHICAL ISSUES

L.1. KNOWLEDGE OF CRCC STANDARDS

Rehabilitation counselors are responsible for reading, understanding, and following the Code, and seeking clarification of any standard that is not understood. Lack of knowledge or misunderstanding of an ethical responsibility is not a defense against a charge of unethical conduct.

L.2. APPLICATION OF STANDARDS

a. DECISION-MAKING MODELS AND SKILLS. Rehabilitation counselors must be prepared to recognize underlying ethical principles and conflicts among competing interests, as well as to apply appropriate decision-making models and skills to resolve dilemmas and act ethically.

b. ADDRESSING UNETHICAL BEHAVIOR. Rehabilitation counselors expect colleagues to adhere to the Code. When rehabilitation counselors possess knowledge that raises doubt as to whether another rehabilitation counselor is acting in an ethical manner, they take appropriate action.

c. CONFLICTS BETWEEN ETHICS AND LAWS. Rehabilitation counselors obey the laws and statutes of the legal jurisdiction in which they practice unless there is a conflict with the Code. If ethical responsibilities conflict with laws, regulations, or other governing legal authorities, rehabilitation counselors make known their commitment to the Code and take steps to resolve conflicts. If conflicts cannot be resolved by such means, rehabilitation counselors may adhere to the requirements of law, regulations, or other governing legal authorities.

d. KNOWLEDGE OF RELATED CODES OF ETHICS. Rehabilitation counselors understand applicable ethics codes from other professional organizations or from certification and licensure bodies of which they are members. Rehabilitation counselors are aware that the Code forms the basis for CRCC disciplinary actions, and understand that if there is a discrepancy between codes they are held to the CRCC standards.

e. CONSULTATION. When uncertain as to whether particular situations or courses of action may be in violation of the Code, rehabilitation counselors consult with other professionals who
are knowledgeable about ethics, with supervisors, colleagues, and/or with appropriate authorities, such as CRCC, licensure boards, or legal counsel.

f. ORGANIZATION CONFLICTS. If the demands of organizations with which rehabilitation counselors are affiliated pose a conflict with the Code, rehabilitation counselors specify the nature of such conflicts and express to their supervisors or other responsible officials their commitment to the Code. When possible, rehabilitation counselors work toward change within organizations to allow full adherence to the Code. In doing so, they address any confidentiality issues.

L.3. SUSPECTED VIOLATIONS

a. INFORMAL RESOLUTION. When rehabilitation counselors have reason to believe that another rehabilitation counselor is violating or has violated an ethical standard, they attempt first to resolve the issue informally with the other rehabilitation counselor if feasible, provided such action does not violate confidentiality rights that may be involved.

b. REPORTING ETHICAL VIOLATIONS. When an informal resolution is not appropriate or feasible, or if an apparent violation has substantially harmed or is likely to substantially harm persons or organizations and is not appropriate for informal resolution or is not resolved properly, rehabilitation counselors take further action appropriate to the situation. Such action might include referral to local or national committees on professional ethics, voluntary national certification bodies, licensure boards, or to the appropriate institutional authorities. This standard does not apply when an intervention would violate confidentiality rights (e.g., when clients refuse to allow information or statements to be shared) or when rehabilitation counselors have been retained to review the work of another rehabilitation counselor whose professional conduct is in question by a regulatory agency.

c. UNWARRANTED COMPLAINTS. Rehabilitation counselors do not initiate, participate in, or encourage the filing of ethics complaints that are made with reckless disregard or willful ignorance of facts that would disprove the allegation, or are intended to harm rehabilitation counselors rather than to protect clients or the public.

L.4. COOPERATION WITH ETHICS COMMITTEES

Rehabilitation counselors assist in the process of enforcing the Code. Rehabilitation counselors cooperate with requests, proceedings, and requirements of the CRCC Ethics Committee or ethics committees of other duly constituted associations or boards having jurisdiction over those charged with a violation. Rehabilitation counselors are familiar with the Guidelines and Procedures for Processing Complaints and use it as a reference for assisting in the enforcement of the Code.

L.5. UNFAIR DISCRIMINATION AGAINST COMPLAINANTS AND RESPONDENTS

Rehabilitation counselors do not deny individuals services, employment, advancement, admission to academic or other programs, tenure, or promotions based solely upon their having
made or their being the subject of an ethics complaint. This does not preclude taking action based upon the outcome of such proceedings when rehabilitation counselors are found to be in violation of ethical standards.

**NOTE:** Rehabilitation counselors who violate the Code are subject to disciplinary action. Since the use of the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC®) and Canadian Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CCRC®) designations are a privilege granted by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC®), CRCC reserves unto itself the power to suspend or to revoke the privilege or to approve other penalties for a violation. Disciplinary penalties are imposed as warranted by the severity of the offense and its attendant circumstances. All disciplinary actions are undertaken in accordance with published procedures and penalties designed to assure the proper enforcement of the Code within the framework of due process and equal protection under the law.

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**GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

**ADVOCACY:** promoting the well-being of individuals and groups and the rehabilitation counseling profession within systems and organizations. Advocacy seeks fair treatment and full physical and programmatic access for clients, and the removal of any barriers or obstacles that inhibit access, growth, and development.

**ASSENT:** agreement with a proposed course of action in relation to counseling services or plans when a person is otherwise not capable or competent to give formal or legal consent (e.g., informed consent).

**AUTONOMY:** the right of clients to be self-governing within their social and cultural framework. The right of clients to make decisions on their own behalf.

**BENEFICENCE:** to do good to others; to promote the well-being of clients.

**CLIENTS:** individuals with, or directly affected by, a disability, functional limitation(s), or medical condition and who receive services from rehabilitation counselors. At times, rehabilitation counseling services may be provided to individuals other than those with a disability.

**CONFIDENTIALITY:** a promise or contract to respect the privacy of clients by not disclosing anything revealed to rehabilitation counselors except under agreed-upon conditions.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** a situation in which financial or other personal considerations have the potential to compromise or bias professional judgment and objectivity.
CONSULTATION: when one professional seeks the advice of another professional. It is a process in which consultants assist consultees to resolve a specific issue.

CONTINGENCY FEE: any fee for services provided where the fee is payable only if there is a favorable result (defined as part of the fee contract).

COURT ORDER: a directive from a tribunal or court directing certain actions or conduct which rehabilitation counselors are legally required to follow.

CULTURAL COMPETENCE: encompasses beliefs, attitudes, knowledge, and skills that result in an ability to understand, communicate with, and effectively interact with people across cultures.

CULTURALLY DIVERSE: age, color, race, national origin, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, religion/spirituality, sexual orientation, marital status/partnership, language preference, socioeconomic status, or any basis proscribed by law.

DISPARAGING REMARKS: public statements that degrade, belittle, minimize, defame, demean, humiliate, or scorn individuals or groups of individuals. These differ from critiques, which are intended to provide comparisons of thoughts, ideas, methods, work products, or conclusions. If statements criticize the individual as a person, their character or intellect, or are based on incorrect information or fictional claims, these are considered disparaging remarks.

DISTANCE COUNSELING OR EDUCATION: any rehabilitation counseling or education that occurs through electronic auditory and/or electronic visual means.

EVALUEES: in a forensic setting, the people who are the subject of the objective and unbiased evaluations.

EXPLOIT: to take advantage of a power differential in a relationship.

FIDELITY: to be faithful; to keep promises and honor the trust placed in rehabilitation counselors.

FORENSIC: to provide expertise involving the application of professional knowledge and the use of scientific, technical, or other specialized knowledge for the resolution of legal or administrative issues, proceedings, or decisions.

FUNCTIONAL: relating to cognitive, sensory, environmental, intellectual, mental, behavioral, emotional, and/or physical capabilities.

IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS: a child, spouse, parent, grandparent, or sibling. Immediate family members are also defined in a manner that is sensitive to cultural differences.
INFORMED CONSENT: a process of communication between rehabilitation counselors and clients that results in the authorization or decision by clients based upon an appreciation and understanding of the facts and implications of an action.

JUSTICE: to be fair in the treatment of all clients; to provide appropriate services to all.

NONMALEFICENCE: to do no harm to others.

PRIVACY: the right of clients to keep the counseling relationship to oneself (e.g., as a secret). Privacy is more inclusive than confidentiality, which addresses communications in the counseling context.

PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION: established by statute and protects clients from having confidential communications with rehabilitation counselors disclosed in legal proceedings without their permission.

PROFESSIONAL DISCLOSURE: the process of communicating pertinent information to clients in order for clients to engage in informed consent.

REGIONAL: state, provincial, or other intermediate level.

RETAINER: a contract between an agency or individual(s) and rehabilitation counselors when the agency/individual(s) pays to reserve the time of rehabilitation counselors.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT: sexual solicitation, physical advances, or verbal or nonverbal conduct that is sexual in nature, that occurs in connection with professional activities or roles, and (1) rehabilitation counselors know or are told the act is unwelcome, offensive, or creates a hostile workplace or learning environment; and (2) is sufficiently severe or intense to be perceived as harassment to a reasonable person in the context in which the behavior occurred. Sexual harassment may consist of a single intense or severe act considered harassment by a reasonable person, or multiple persistent or pervasive acts.

STUDENTS: persons actively enrolled in an academic program.

TEAMS: groups of individuals who participate in a structured or agreed-upon form of collaboration.

TRaineEES: rehabilitation counselors-in-training, students, or participants in in-service or continuing education.

VERACITY: to be honest; truthfulness.

Acknowledgements – CRCC recognizes the American Counseling Association and the International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals for permitting the Commission to
adopt, in part, the ACA Code of Ethics and the IARP Code of Ethics, Standards of Practice and Competencies, respectively.

RECOMMENDED CITATION

A copy of CRCC’s Guidelines and Procedures for Processing Complaints along with a Complaint Form may be obtained from CRCC’s website at www.crccertification.com or by contacting CRCC at:

CRCC
1699 East Woodfield Road, Suite 300
Schaumburg, IL 60173
(847) 944-1325

Adopted: 06/2009
Effective: 01/2010
APPENDIX C

Department of Health and Community Studies
Case Conference Policy
A student may be removed from a field studies placement (also known as practicum/internship) or restricted from access to field studies opportunities because s/he does not meet the professional performance expectations of the department. Successful completion of the field studies component of the human services curriculum (HSP 340, HSP 341, and two sections of HSP 440—a minimum of 360 hours) are required to complete the major. Permanent restriction or removal from field studies would result in a student’s removal from the Human Services major. In Rehabilitation Counseling, students must earn a grade of B or better in RC 583 and successfully complete 100 hours of practicum (RC 591) and 600 hours of internship (RC 592). Restriction or removal from practicum or internship would result in a student’s inability to complete the Rehabilitation Counseling program.

When a student’s readiness for, or ability to meet professional performance expectations within a field studies placement is in question, the situation will be referred for a case conference prior to long-term or permanent restriction or removal from a field placement. (See definitions below.)

A case conference is an opportunity for a student’s professional performance to be objectively assessed against the department’s requirements and expectations for access to the programs’ field studies sequences. A case conference allows University faculty to review facts of a specific situation and fairly determine options and actions to ensure a student’s rights are upheld and that placement is in the best interest of the human services and rehabilitation counseling fields and clients for which we educate students to serve.

The case conference is convened by three tenure/tenure track faculty members who serve on the case conference committee. At least one of the committee members will be associated with the student’s specific program and site. (Human Services—Bellingham, Everett, or Distance; or Rehabilitation Counseling)

A final decision is provided by this committee according to a reasonably established timeline.

**Professional Performance Expectations**

The professional performance expectations are outlined in the following program materials:
For Human Services
- Essential Functions document (see Appendix A of the Field Studies Manual)
- Ethical Statements of the National Organization of Humans Services (NOHS) (see Appendix D of the Field Studies Manual).

For Rehabilitation Counseling
- Essential Functions document (see https://wce.wwu.edu/files/RC-AcadProfExpectations.pdf);
- Scope of Practice (Appendix F of the Student Handbook)
- Code of Professional Ethics for Rehabilitation Counselors from the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (see Appendix B of the practicum or internship guides).

Process and Timeline

A case conference is required prior to long-term or permanent restriction or removal from field studies. All aspects of the case conference and final notification shall be completed within a reasonable timeframe. A ten (10) business day period in which to complete the conference, starting upon initial request for removal/restriction from any field studies placement, is recommended by the department. However, the Case Conference Chair adjusts and sets the timeline at the outset of the process. That timeline will supersede the recommended timeline.

The final decision of the case conference committee will be communicated to the student, field site supervisor, Department Chair, and University faculty supervising the student in the field by the Case Conference Committee Chair within two (2) additional business days following the case conference.

The Department of Health and Community Studies adheres to the ethical standards for confidentiality outlined in the National Organization for Human Services Ethical Standards and abides by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) in this process.

The student may appeal the committee’s decision to the Department Chair following the process and timeline outlined in Appendix F of the WWU University Catalog. See Academic Grievance and Appeal Policy and Procedures at: http://catalog.wwu.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=600

While a student may elect to research other placement sites while the case conference procedure is active, the student must not make contact with any current or potential sites until after the case conference is concluded.

Temporary restriction or removal of a student in the field may occur until the case conference procedure has ended.

Limitations on use of the case conference policy:
While a student’s academic performance may also restrict a student from initial access to field studies, this policy and subsequent procedure exists only to address professional requirements and expectations of the field.
There may be situations where a field placement is not a good match between the site, the student, and/or the supervisor. If there is no question of a student’s ethical or professional behavior or ability to meet essential functions, then a case conference is not required. Rather, at the discretion of the university instructor the student will be allowed to withdraw from a placement and find another placement in order to continue in field studies.

Definitions

Temporary restriction or removal means the period of time between the initiation and the end of the case conference procedure.

Long-term restriction or removal means one to three academic quarters.

Permanent restriction or removal means that the student would not be eligible to complete the field studies sequence within the educational program and would not be able to complete the major.

Restriction means that the student has not yet been placed for any field studies experience.

Removal means that the student has started the field studies sequence and that termination of the current placement within the academic term is in question, as well as, the student's access to future placement.

Procedure
Student Field Placement Restriction or Removal

Prior to any long-term or permanent restriction or removal from field placement, a case conference will take place. University faculty overseeing the student will make a removal or restriction request to the Case Conference Chair.

The Case Conference Chair will determine whether the situation warrants a case conference.

Temporary restriction or removal of a student in the field may occur until the case conference procedure has ended. This action will be determined by the Case Conference Chair.

Restriction Requests
A restriction request may come from any faculty member who identifies concerns regarding a student’s readiness for field placement stemming from professional capacity or conduct in the program. A case conference may take place before a student begins practicum, even if the student passes HSP 340 and the benchmark exam for Human Services or RC 583 with a B or better, in the Rehabilitation Counseling program.

The faculty member requesting restriction must document and provide evidence of student behavior(s) that call the student’s professional and/or ethical capacity or conduct into question. The faculty member must give the student an opportunity to respond to the evidence prior to
making the restriction request to the Case Conference Chair. Whether or not the student agrees that a long-term or permanent restriction is warranted, a restriction request must be made to the Case Conference Chair within two (2) business days of the presentation of reason for restriction to the student.

**Removal Requests**
A removal request will originate following faculty discussions with a field site supervisor and/or agency representative, based on a report from a variety of possible sources, that brings the student’s professional capacity or conduct into question.

The university faculty overseeing the student will first give the student an opportunity to respond to the facts alleged. This must occur within one (1) business day of the initial report.

The overseeing faculty member will decide whether or not to submit a request for a case conference. If a case conference will be requested, the faculty member will provide initial information and recommendations to the Case Conference Chair within two (2) business days after initiation of a report of behavior or circumstance that puts a student’s professional ability in question.

**For Both Restriction or Removal Requests**
When a case conference is appropriate, a case conference date will be set for conclusion of the process within the recommended or adjusted timeline.

The Case Conference Chair will notify the Department Chair, the student and the field site supervisor that a request to remove/restrict placement is being considered and will provide the timeline and process for the case conference.

Further adjustments to the timeline are possible, but should be made with the best interest of the student in mind. If any person involved in the process requests a timeline adjustment, that request must be made in writing to the Case Conference Chair. If the student is not originating this request, the student must be consulted and given the opportunity to waive his/her right to the pre-established timeline. This waiver must be provided in writing.

The case conference committee members ensure completion of any required fact-finding and documentation activity. Fact finding begins concurrently with the initiation of the case conference procedure. If there are no controverted facts, additional witnesses need not be contacted. If the student disputes any or all claims, then fact finding may require contact with others. This includes the field site supervisor, peers, clients, and/or other witnesses or impacted parties. If any person requiring contact is unable to be reached by the conclusion of the fact-finding period, the Case Conference Chair must be notified in writing. The confidentiality of students and non-professional witnesses will be upheld.

Documentation of facts, evidence and a timeline of events must be submitted to the Case Conference Committee three (3) business days in advance of the case conference.
Copies of all submitted materials will be distributed to each case conference participant, including the student, at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting.

Submitted materials should include evidence documenting how the student is not meeting specifics of the Essential Functions for the Human Services or Rehabilitation Counseling programs, the NOHS ethical standards, Scope of Practice, or Code of Professional Ethics for Rehabilitation Counselors, as applicable and required for continuation in a field study placement (practicum/internship). The student may also elect to submit evidence and/or a written statement to present to the case conference committee.

The purpose of the case conference is to objectively review all evidence provided through fact-finding, hear the student’s perspective, and to generate a set of decisions. These decisions include, but are not limited to:

a. Whether or not the student should be restricted or removed long-term or permanently from access to field studies placement.

b. If the student is not restricted or removed, should s/he be required to participate in a remediation plan? If a remediation plan is recommended, it is the committee’s responsibility to determine the contents of the plan and the process and timeline for monitoring.

c. If a student has or will be restricted or removed long-term from a field studies placement, the case conference committee must determine the conditions under which the student will be granted access to field placement opportunities in the future and on what timeline. It is up to the case conference committee to identify any additional, specific requirements that the student must meet prior to, or during, this future placement.

d. Should there be further action, such as possible dismissal from a course or seminar or from the program?

At the conclusion of the case conference, the Case Conference Committee has one additional (1) business day to finalize deliberations, make a decision, and write a concise report that outlines the deciding factors, any recommendations and final decision in the case.

The Case Conference Chair will notify the student, field supervisor, University faculty supervising the student and the Department Chair, in writing, of the committee’s final decision within two (2) additional business days of the conference conclusion.

At the point where a student is removed from field experience, the Case Conference Chair will further notify the student’s designated academic advisor, who shall contact the Registrar to assist the student in the transition out of the Human Services or Rehabilitation Counseling programs.

The student has five (5) business days of the decision letter to appeal the committee’s decision to the Department Chair following the process and timeline outlined in Appendix F of the WWU
University Catalog. See Academic Grievance and Appeal Policy and Procedures at: http://catalog.wwu.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=600

Participants

1) The case conference will include:
   a) student (if s/he chooses to attend, see #6 below).
   b) university faculty requesting restriction/removal of the student from field studies placement. This faculty member will not serve as a voting member on the case conference committee.
   c) three tenured/tenure track faculty members who form the decision-making case conference committee.
   d) a department staff member to take notes. The staff member does not participate in decision-making.

2) And may include:
   a) one guest of the student, in accordance with university policy. (See #3 below for details.)
   b) guest of the department, when deemed appropriate by the Case Conference Chair, such as a field site supervisor or other key parties as determined by the circumstances of the case.

3) The student may invite only one guest to attend the case conference. The guest might be a student, a family member, or faculty member/academic advisor who is not serving on the case conference committee. Participation is voluntary, and the guest will be subject to the rules related to guests as determined by the Assistant Attorney General. In addition, the guest will not be able to be present during the committee deliberations or during the final review of the committee decision unless given permission by the Case Conference Chair. It is the student’s responsibility to notify the Case Conference Chair that s/he will be bringing a guest at least 48 hours prior to the conference.

4) Only the Case Conference Committee members and a staff member, to take notes, are present during case conference committee deliberations. Deliberations may or may not take place immediately following the case conference meeting.

5) The committee may elect to consult with other department faculty and/or field supervisors or agency representatives prior to making their final decision.

6) The student may elect not to attend the case conference. However, the student will be asked to notify the Case Conference Chair in writing of this decision at least 48 hours prior to the case conference, and s/he will be responsible for the fulfillment of requirements decided upon by the case conference committee.

7) The case conference meeting may take place with some or all members participating via video or teleconference.