Master of Science in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling Program:

Program Outcomes

Accreditation Status of the Program

The Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling Program is fully accredited by the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) as a Rehabilitation Counseling and Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling program with a current accreditation cycle of 2009-2023. The program is also accredited by the Council on Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) as a Clinical Mental Health Counseling program with a current accreditation cycle of 2015-2023.

The Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling program at IIT is one of only twelve programs in the country with this dual accreditation status between CORE and CACREP. The dual emphasis is designed to train clinical mental health counselors who are prepared to meet the mental health needs of individuals with a wide range of disabilities.

Retention Rate

The Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling Program at IIT currently has 31 students enrolled in courses. The retention rate for the 2016-2017 academic year was 95%. During the 2016-2017 academic year, one student left the program for personal reasons.

Time Necessary to Complete the Program

The average time necessary to complete the rehabilitation counseling program is 2-3 years depending on whether students complete the program as a full-time student (15 credits per semester) or as a working professional student (9 credits per semester).

Estimated Cost

The tuition cost for graduate students for the 2016-2017 academic year is $1,400 per credit hour. The total number of credit hours for the M.S. degree in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling is 60 credit hours. Thus, the total cost of the degree is $84,000. This figure does not include fees, books, and supplies.

Tuition may increase each year by varying amounts. Whether a student enrolls for courses on a full-time or part-time basis will affect the total cost of the degree, as students who complete coursework over a longer period of time may be subject to a larger number of annual tuition increases. Students should plan for an increase in tuition each year and calculate the total cost based on their anticipated length of stay in the program.

Scholarships
The Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling Program at IIT has a five-year (2014-2019) long-term training grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) for those students interested in working for the State-Federal Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) system. Interested students apply for this training grant in their first semester of the program. The application includes a personal statement describing why they are interested in working for state VR and how it fits into their personal career goals. If selected for the scholarship, a student's tuition is supported at 100% for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th semesters of the program. Students also receive a modest stipend to offset the cost of books and supplies.

The program also holds a competition each year for two scholarships for students interested in multicultural and international rehabilitation. The application includes a personal statement describing their experiences and interests in international/multicultural rehabilitation. The amount of the scholarship varies each year, but is typically around $5,000.

Employment Rate of Graduates

A total of 16 students graduated during the 2015-2016 academic year. Within 6 months of graduation, 85% of these graduates obtained employment or were accepted into academic programs for advanced graduate degrees.

Employment Settings where Graduates Work

IIT’s graduates work in a variety of settings, including state VR systems, nonprofit rehabilitation agencies, community-based mental health agencies, the Veterans Administration, and private for-profit rehabilitation organizations. More than 50% of our graduates are working for nonprofit/community-based rehabilitation programs.

Passing Rate for the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Exam

According to the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) outcome data, the passing rate on the certifying examination for students was 100% for March 2015.

Licensure

The M.S. in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling Program at IIT is fully accredited by CORE and the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). Prospective students wishing to learn more about accreditation or to verify the accreditation status of a program should go to the CORE website at www.core-rehab.org and the CACREP website at www.cacrep.org.

Graduates of the program are eligible to take the Certified Rehabilitation Counseling Exam (CRCE) through the CRCC and to become a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC), which is the standard certification for rehabilitation counseling practice in
the United States. More information can be obtained from the CRCC website at https://www.crccertification.com.

Graduates are also eligible to take the National Counseling Examination (NCE) through the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) and to become a National Certified Counselor (NCC). NBCC also offers the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE), which is required in some states for licensure as a professional counselor. Graduates of the program are also eligible to take the NCMHCE and to become a Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor. More information can be obtained from the NBCC website at http://www nbcc.org.

Graduates from the program are eligible to become licensed as a Professional Counselor in the state of Illinois. After a period of supervised practice, a Licensed Professional Counselor may apply to become a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC) in the state of Illinois. An LCPC may practice independently if they wish.

Licensing laws for professional counselors vary from state to state. Therefore, prospective students are encouraged to check the licensing law in the state in which they intend to reside following graduation. In most states, graduation from a CORE or CACREP accredited program and possession of the CRC, NCC, or NCMHC designation is sufficient for licensure as a counselor. However, some states may have additional requirements. For example, if a state requires extra coursework, it is important for the student to identify this and discuss the matter with faculty to determine if the needed coursework is offered at IIT. To check on the requirements for a specific state, students can go to the American Counseling Association website, which lists the state counseling board websites by state: http://www counseling.org/knowledge-center/licensure-requirements/state-professional-counselor-licensure-boards.