Advanced Psychiatric Rehabilitation Certificate Program

Current research indicates a significant shortage in practitioners specifically trained in mental health evidence-based practices (EBP). This 9 hour (3 courses) program trains students to provide EBPs to promote community integration for individuals with mental illness. This Advanced Certificate in Psychiatric Rehabilitation trains rehabilitation practitioners to provide mental health evidence-based practices to assist individuals with mental illness to obtain and maintain life goals within community settings. This specialization training focuses on utilizing: evidence-based practices; counseling methods; supported employment; psychopharmacology; consumer empowerment; community resources; supported education; families; stigma; multicultural and psychosocial issues.

Psychology 590: Psychiatric Rehabilitation
This course focuses on achieving personal goals by assessing the individual’s level of skills and available support. The concepts of readiness, empowerment and recovery are prominent. Topics represent evidence-based practices and include psychopharmacology, assertive community treatment, illness management and recovery, family services, supported employment, and integrated programs for people with mental illness who also abuse substances. Impact of stigma and stigma change is discussed vis-à-vis work and other rehabilitation goals. The course also includes practices for which the evidence is increasing such as consumer operated services, faith based initiatives, and supported education. The course also addresses mental illnesses occurring with other disabilities.

Psychology 548: Vocational Psychiatric Rehabilitation
This course teaches theory and skills based in evidence-based supported employment (EBSE) for psychiatric disabilities and motivational interviewing (MI). Students learn to utilize EBSE for customers in determination, action, and maintenance stages of change related to employment. In turn, students learn MI to assist customers in pre-contemplation, contemplation, and relapse stages of change related to employment. This course identifies how functional limitations would manifest themselves at work, and suggest strategies to ameliorate the effects of functional limitations on the job. Related areas covered in the course include consumer choice, career development, integrated settings, service linkages, natural supports, the individual placement and support model, job accommodations, and other supported employment approaches.

Psychology 597: Graduate Special Problems
This course provides opportunities for students to apply skills promoting independent living and vocational rehabilitation skills learned during Psychology 590 and 548. This course includes three options. 1) Students may choose to participate in 100 hours of fieldwork at the Illinois Division of Rehabilitation Services or a community psychiatric rehabilitation center. This fieldwork serves as a bridge between theoretical knowledge and application of psychiatric rehabilitation evidence-based practices. 2) Students may choose to complete a psychiatric rehabilitation project that explores the implementation of an EBP at a community psychiatric rehabilitation center. 3) Students may also decide to develop their own project related to the implementation of EBP.