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 Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) as a Clinical Mental Health Counseling program and Clinical Rehabilitation 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 27 students enrolled in courses. The retention rate for the 2018-2019 academic year was 100%.

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 2018-2019 academic year is $1,530 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 $91,800. 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. Students also receive a modest stipend to offset the cost of books and supplies.

The program also holds a competition each year for 2-5 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 between $3,000- $5,000.

Employment Rate of Graduates

A total of 10 students graduated during the 2018-2019 academic year. Within 6 months of graduation, approximately 70% 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 71% for October 2018.

Licensure

The M.S. in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling Program at IIT is fully accredited by CACREP. Prospective students wishing to learn more about accreditation or to verify the accreditation status of a program should go to 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 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.
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<td><strong>1. Demonstrate foundational skills and techniques necessary to work in a practicum setting</strong></td>
<td><strong>The video-recording evaluation and feedback form utilized in pre-practicum. The skill categories include: (1) basic listening skills, (2) interview structure, (3) facilitation skills, (4) reflecting, (5) advanced reflecting, (6) challenging, (7) client counselor alliance, (8) goal setting, (9) solution skills, and (10) counseling style</strong></td>
<td><strong>1) The instructor for the pre-practicum course is responsible for individual evaluation of counseling videotape projects for the mid-term and final evaluation.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Each student must receive a passing grade on the evaluation and feedback form in order to be approved for practicum.</strong></td>
<td><strong>90% of students will achieve a passing score on the evaluation and feedback form.</strong></td>
<td><strong>100% (10/10) of students in the pre-practicum course received a passing grade on their final evaluation and feedback form, and were approved to move on to practicum. Average score was 47/50.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>2. Demonstrate basic counseling skills in practicum before progressing to internship I</strong></td>
<td><strong>The Basic Counseling Skills Rubric is used to evaluate the students (1) counseling relationship, (2) comprehensive use of counseling skills, (3) structure and direction or focus of a session (4) attending to client affect, content, meaning, reflection, exploration and summarization, and (5) professional role skills</strong></td>
<td><strong>1) The individual faculty supervisor will complete the basic counseling skills rubric at the end of the semester. The instructor of the practicum course will review all counseling skills rubrics and report on the total for all students.</strong></td>
<td><strong>1) Students are rated on a 0-does not meet, 1-meets target, and 2-exceeds target. A student must achieve a total of 4 (e.g. having met the target for four out of five counseling skills). in order to pass.</strong></td>
<td><strong>90% students will achieve a passing score of 4 or higher.</strong></td>
<td><strong>100% (9/9) of the students in practicum received a minimum score of 4 on the Basic Counseling Skills Rubric. The average score was 7/10.</strong></td>
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### 3. Demonstrate advanced counseling skills in internship II before graduating

The Advanced Counseling Skills Rubric is used to evaluate the students (1) counseling relationship, (2) comprehensive use of counseling skills, (3) structure and direction or focus of a session (4) attending to client affect, content, meaning, reflection, exploration and summarization, (5) professional role skills, (6) case conceptualization, and (7) personal growth skills.

1) The individual faculty supervisor will complete advanced counseling skills rubric at the end of the semester. The instructor of the internship course will review all counseling skills rubrics and report on the total for all students.

1) Students are rated on a 0-does not meet, 1-meets target, and 2-exceeds target in seven skills areas. A student must achieve a total of 7 (e.g. having met the target for seven out of seven counseling skills) in order to pass. 90% students will achieve a passing score of 7 or higher.

100% (11/11) students participating in internship received a passing score of 7 or higher on the Advanced Counseling Skills Rubric at the end of Internship I. The average score was 12/14.

### 4. Students entering the program will complete the program

Student registration in course per semester

1) The program director will monitor all students in the program and review the monitoring report for student who have not registered each semester.

1) Students who have not completed at least one semester in an academic year without having requested a leave of absence will be considered dropped from the program according to university policy.

90% of students who enter the program will matriculate and graduate with a M.S. degree in RMHC.

88% (7/8) of full-time students entering the program in 2017 graduated in 2019. The one student who did not graduate took a medical leave of absence and is still in the program.

### 5. Offer a student focused curriculum

1) Graduation survey of students to assess satisfaction

1) Survey is administered at the end of each academic year before students graduate

1) Compile comments from students and assess areas of concern identified by students

90% of students indicate they are satisfied with the how effectively they were prepared to apply knowledge of rehabilitation and mental health counseling practice.

100% (9/9) of respondents indicated a rating of 5 or higher in student focus and curriculum preparation for the fields of clinical rehabilitation and/or clinical mental health counseling. The mean rating for clinical mental health counseling was 8.27/10, and the mean rating for clinical rehabilitation counseling was 7.31/10.
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<th>6. Demonstrate ability to apply evidence-based research to their clinical practice.</th>
<th>1) Research strength rubric completed by research instructor</th>
<th>1) Research strength will be collected by faculty members at the end of each of 2 research courses</th>
<th>1) Students successfully defend the originality of their research proposal and its significance to rehabilitation and mental health counseling practice</th>
<th>90% achieve a passing grade of a B or higher on the research courses.</th>
<th>100% (10/10) of students who enrolled in the research methods and research project courses received a grade of B or better.</th>
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<td>7. Demonstrate knowledge of the knowledge domain areas for rehabilitation and mental health counseling</td>
<td>1) Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) exam</td>
<td>1) Data will be requested of CRCC in September of each year</td>
<td>1) Students successfully learn the knowledge domain areas for rehabilitation and mental health counseling practice</td>
<td>80% of students receive a passing score on the CRC exam</td>
<td>71% (12/17) graduates received a passing score on the CRC exam. Although this rate is higher than the national average it does not meet our standard for passing rates. Content area scores were on par with national averages. Upon further examination, it was noted that the majority of the graduates who did not pass were international students and English is their second language. The RMHC program at IIT consistently has a high number of international students, and we believe that this exam performance.</td>
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<td>8. Employer satisfaction with preparation of graduates</td>
<td>1) Employer questionnaire</td>
<td>1) Questionnaire will be sent out and data collected once every five years</td>
<td>1) Employers will rank each outcome area on a scale of 0 (unsure) to 5 (excellent preparation). If any outcome area scores below a 3, the employer will indicate which area(s) are deficient</td>
<td>90% of the employers will rank the program a minimum of a 3 or higher on each of the ten outcome areas</td>
<td>N/A: Employer satisfaction surveys are done every 5 years and are scheduled to be collected in 2020.</td>
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### 9. Student satisfaction with preparation for professional counseling practice

1) Student questionnaire

- Questionnaire will be sent out and data collected once every year.
- Students will rank each outcome area on a scale of 0 (unsure) to 5 (excellent preparation). If any outcome area scores below a 3, the student will indicate which area(s) are deficient.
- 90% of students will rank the outcomes areas a minimum of a 3 or higher.

- 100% of the respondents rated each of the 12 domains areas as a 3 (moderate preparation) or above. The average rating across all domains was 4.26/5.

### 10. Students professional identity as a professional counselor

1) Student survey

- Student survey is distributed to all graduating students in the semester of graduation.
- Student employment and pursuit of an advanced graduate degree is tracked.
- Students indicate the certification exam they are taking and the licensure they are pursuing.
- Students report on their employment or advanced graduate degree that is sought.
- 90% of students will plan to pursue certification in a counseling area and licensure as a professional counselor.
- 100% of students will plan to pursue an advanced graduate degree in a counseling field.

- 100% (9/9) of the respondents indicated identification with the counselor profession and intent to pursue counseling licensure at the state level. In addition, 7/9 of those same students also plan to pursue CRC certification.