



# GREAT IDEAS

GRADUATE PROGRAM IN REHABILITATION COUNSELING & SERVICES

# GREAT LEADERS



*Making a difference in human-helping professions since 1885*



## DEPARTMENTAL CONTACT



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FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY, SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE HAS BEEN  
A LEADER IN PROVIDING A BROAD AND BALANCED EDUCATIONAL  
EXPERIENCE. HUMANICS, THE PHILOSOPHY THAT HAS INSPIRED  
SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE FROM ITS BEGINNING, CALLS FOR  
EDUCATING THE WHOLE PERSON—SPIRIT, MIND, AND BODY—  
FOR LEADERSHIP IN SERVICE TO OTHERS.



# GRADUATE PROGRAM IN REHABILITATION COUNSELING & SERVICES

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH** the College's Humanics philosophy—to educate students in spirit, mind, and body for leadership in service to others—students majoring in Rehabilitation Counseling and Services become prepared to help people recognize their abilities and live full and productive lives. Springfield College's nationally recognized programs offer a variety of courses designed to prepare graduates for the rapidly growing health and human services fields. A thorough combination of theory, application, and fieldwork provides students with an excellent foundation of knowledge and skills.

Thanks to advancement in medicine and the health and behavioral sciences, most of us can look forward to living a long, healthy life. However, national statistics show that in the next decade alone, over 54 million Americans will face mental, physical, or psychological problems that will restrict their life activities. These may result from birth defects, illness and disease, aging, work-related injuries, automobile accidents, drug and alcohol problems, or the stresses of war, home, school, work, and daily life.

Disabilities often prevent people from obtaining and maintaining jobs, and many are unable to provide for themselves the basic necessities of life. Children with various physical, learning, or behavioral problems often face difficulties getting an adequate education,

further limiting their possibilities for the future. Many feel a profound sense of isolation, shame, hopelessness, and crippling low self-esteem. Tragically, large numbers of individuals and families don't know how to access services, or even realize that there are services—and people—available to help them.

Rehabilitation counselors assist people with physical, mental, or emotional illnesses or disabilities to become or remain self-sufficient, productive citizens. They help individuals with disabilities deal with societal and personal problems, succeed in school, plan careers, and find and keep satisfying jobs. They also may work with individuals, professional organizations, and advocacy groups to address the environmental and social barriers that create obstacles for people with disabilities. The goal of rehabilitation counseling is to empower individuals with disabilities to regain and exercise control over their own lives and achieve maximum psychological, social, educational, vocational, and economic independence, allowing them to enhance the quality of their lives to their fullest capacity.

Rehabilitation counseling focuses on the whole person, including social relationships, as well as physical and psychological aspects. The rehabilitation counselor builds bridges between the often-isolated world of clients and their families, communities, and work environments, bringing together and coordinating available

services and resources. Rehabilitation counselors draw on knowledge from several fields including psychology, medicine, psychiatry, sociology, social work, education, and law. Their specialized skill and knowledge of disabilities, chronic illnesses, health and wellness, and environmental factors that interact with disabilities differentiate rehabilitation counselors from other types of counselors. In addition to providing guidance and personal counseling, the responsibilities of the rehabilitation counselor include:

- evaluating an individual’s potential for independent living and employment and arranging for medical and psychological services and vocational assessment, training, and job placement.
- evaluating medical and psychological reports and conferring with physicians and psychologists about types of home, school, or work activities individuals can perform.
- working with employers to identify and/or modify job responsibilities to accommodate individuals with disabilities.

The demand for rehabilitation services is enormous and continues to grow at a rapid rate. Every year, nearly one million persons with disabilities are assisted through independent living and public vocational rehabilitation programs to become working, productive, independent members of society. Rehabilitation counselors find professional opportunities in a variety of settings, including state vocational rehabilitation agencies, social service organizations, independent living centers, alcohol and drug programs, mental health centers, and community or private non-profit rehabilitation programs. Opportunities

are growing also in business and industry, especially in personnel risk management and employee assistance programs.

Springfield College’s nationally recognized program in Rehabilitation Counseling and Services strategically positions and equips graduates to compete successfully for career opportunities throughout rehabilitative services. As one of the first institutions of higher learning to offer a graduate program in rehabilitation counseling, Springfield College is an undisputed leader in the field.

Through a sound, yet flexible, multidisciplinary combination of theory, practical skills, and professionally supervised clinical experiences, Springfield College Rehabilitation Counseling and Services graduates emerge from their professional preparation as highly competent, skilled rehabilitation counselors, specialists, and case managers. The curriculum, which has earned national recognition and accreditation, is designed to provide a broad orientation to the medical, health, psychological, social, educational, and vocational aspects of chronic illness, disability, and impairments.

The Rehabilitation and Disability Studies Department at Springfield College offers graduate programs in Rehabilitation Counseling and Services leading to a master’s degree. The Rehabilitation Counseling and Services programs are offered in cooperation with the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) of the U.S. Department of Education. RSA scholarships may be available to full-time students, as are a variety of other types of financial aid.

Rehabilitation Counseling and Services students are trained in counseling theory, skills, and techniques; individual,

*“The diversity of both my coursework and internships prepared me to step right into the career of my dreams—helping others overcome the disease of addiction. As a result of my internship at the Naval Hospital in Newport, R.I., I was chosen to serve as the primary clinician for my first employer’s intensive outpatient program just six months into my paid counseling career.”*

**Tom Greaney G’99**

*Program:* Rehabilitation and Disability Studies—School of Health Sciences & Rehabilitation Studies

*Place of Employment:* Tom works with young adults at an intensive outpatient program in southeastern Connecticut and has a private practice.

group, and environmental assessment; psychosocial and medical aspects of disability, including human growth and development; principles of psychiatric rehabilitation; case management and rehabilitation planning; issues and ethics in rehabilitation service delivery; technological adaptation; vocational evaluation and work adjustment; career counseling; and job development and placement.

Depending on their areas of specialization, students often take required or elective courses in such areas as group counseling, case management, multi-cultural issues, substance abuse rehabilitation, psychiatric rehabilitation, developmental disabilities, communication disorders, sign language, stress management, psychological testing, and rehabilitation administration.

Full-time students typically take twelve to twenty-four months to complete their program, including coursework and field-based clinical training. Summer and evening classes are also available to provide flexibility and accommodate working professionals and part-time students. Supervised fieldwork training is a critical aspect of every program, providing students opportunities not only to demonstrate and perfect skills and competencies related to their respective rehabilitation counseling program, but also to get a feel for the profession and experience first-hand the challenges and rewards of helping people in need. The Rehabilitation and Disability Studies Department has established agreements with a variety of agencies for clinical experiences. Graduate students are welcomed in schools, hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation education and human services agencies, rehabilitation clinics, and brain injury and other specialized centers.

## CAREER OUTLOOK

According to *U.S. News & World Report*, the demand for rehabilitation counselors has exceeded the supply by at least 25 percent in recent years. Jobs for rehabilitation counselors are expected to grow by 23 percent through 2016, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which is much faster than the average for all occupations.

As lifespans continue to grow and the population of people with disabilities and chronic illness increases, the rehabilitation counselor will continue to be needed to counsel, support, train, and assist each child, adolescent, adult, or elderly person striving for independence and productive living.

## FIELDWORK

Fieldwork starts in the first year with an initial rehabilitation practicum course with placement in an approved rehabilitation center, hospital, school, or agency. Consistent with the student's goals, opportunities exist for initial educational, vocational, and personal adjustment counseling, as well as for interviewing, testing, and other rehabilitation functions under professional supervision. All programs require 150 clock hours of clinical practice in addition to a seminar.

Starting in the second year, the rehabilitation internship is an intensive and practical learning experience in an appropriate rehabilitation center, hospital, school, or agency. This 600-hour internship provides students the opportunity to participate in the full spectrum of rehabilitation counseling services involving casework with increasing responsibility in counseling, testing, rehabilitation planning and coordination, placement, and follow-up. Direct service work is supplemented with individual and group supervision.

## AREAS OF CONCENTRATION

### General Counseling and Casework

The primary objective of this program is to prepare students to work with a wide variety of physical, mental, and emotional disabilities, illnesses, traumas, and other conditions.

The program combines multi-disciplinary coursework, research, and practical clinical training in assessment, evaluation, interviewing, and counseling in the context of casework planning, case management, and client services. Graduates are eligible for the national certification examination to become CRCs and to apply for state licensure as an LRC.

### Pediatric and Developmental Disabilities Counseling

Graduate students interested in this program prepare themselves to work with children with disabilities or other conditions such as mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, or various forms of learning disabilities. Primary consideration is given to developmental theory and practice, social learning, and behavioral techniques. In addition to being eligible to become a CRC after passing the designated exam, students who take specific courses may be certified as an early intervention specialist or a child life specialist after meeting specified requirements. For those working in the field of developmental disabilities and who are not interested in licensure, a non-CRC master of education degree in Pediatric and Developmental Disabilities Services is possible to achieve in a 36-credit level III program.

## Psychiatric Rehabilitation and Substance Abuse Counseling

This program of study educates students to work with people with problematic use of alcohol and other drugs and psychiatric issues. The program requires a minimum of 60 semester hours leading to a master of education degree or 66-67 semester hours leading to a master of science degree in rehabilitation counseling services with a concentration in psychiatric rehabilitation and substance abuse counseling. Completion of this option results in (a) eligibility for the CRC after passing required exam and graduation and (b) eligibility for the CADAC/CAC, LRC, and LSW after obtaining required post-degree supervised employment (usually two years) and passing required exams.

## Special Services

This program provides students the opportunity, with faculty advisor guidance and assistance, to develop a specialized program within the scope of departmental offerings and related offerings of other cooperating departments or programs at the College. This interdisciplinary approach blends individual skills and interests in training rehabilitation specialists in areas such as sensory (visual and hearing) disabilities; gerontological services; cardiac rehabilitation; traumatic and work injuries; and marriage and family therapy. Students interested in this program option must arrange a planned program of study with a faculty advisor and departmental approval.

## Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services

Alcohol and substance abuse has a devastating effect on individuals and families across the country. Various treatment and rehabilitation programs are responding to meet the need. The primary objective of this program is to prepare students to work as counselors in a wide variety of detoxification and rehabilitation programs throughout the country. The focus is primarily on developing intervention techniques, employee assistance programs, career development, and counseling and therapeutic strategies for all aspects of rehabilitation programming from in-hospital acute treatment to residential/day treatment. Excellent opportunities exist for clinical field placements.

Graduates from this program will meet the educational requirements for the Certified Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselor (CADAC) in Massachusetts.

## DEGREES OFFERED

### Master of Education (M.Ed.)

The M.Ed. requires the successful completion of all graduate work within the student's specific program, the successful completion of the Master's Comprehensive Examination, and the completion of an independent research project that is planned by the student and conducted under faculty supervision.

### Master of Science (M.S.)

The M.S. requires successful completion of all graduate work within the student's specific program and either of the following:

- 1) A research study organized and conducted under the supervision of a faculty member and presented in approved form for retention by the department in which the study is completed, and the successful completion of the Master's Comprehensive Examination.
- 2) A master's research thesis, including a written proposal, culminating in an oral examination before a thesis committee.

### Post-Master's Professional Certificate Programs in Rehabilitation Counseling and Services Specializations

Certificates may be offered at the post-bachelor's level or graduate level within a degree program or as a post-master's degree offering. Additional prerequisites or eligibility may be required depending upon the specific certificate program. Post-degree graduate courses (minimum 12-18 credits) are 500- or -600-level. Certificate programs are available in the following specialties:

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Counseling
- Pediatric and Developmental Disabilities
- Rehabilitation Counseling—General Casework (RC-GC) (Non-RC-GC graduates or student majors only. Requires completion of master's degree in a counseling discipline.)

Each certificate program is individually designed and may begin in September, January, or May of each year. Courses are offered in the late afternoon or early evening Monday through Thursday. Generally, participants complete one or two courses each semester on a part-time basis. Certificates may be completed in one to two years.

## **FACULTY**

Students learn from and work with our exceptional and nationally recognized faculty, who bring diverse professional backgrounds, research interests, and areas of expertise to the educational experience. Students also benefit from faculty members' strong ties to the local, state, and national rehabilitation community.

## **FACILITIES**

The Rehabilitation and Disability Studies Department is located in Locklin Hall, which includes classrooms, offices, and the Rehabilitation Assessment and Counseling Services Center. A clinical and educational facility providing assessment and evaluation services to both the Springfield College and greater Springfield communities, Locklin Hall is where faculty provide evaluations and supervise graduate students in the provision of such services.

## **ACADEMIC STANDING AND FINANCIAL AID**

Graduate students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative average in graduate-level coursework. Full-time students are expected to complete 18 credit hours per academic year. Academic reviews are conducted each semester. Students accepted to a graduate program on a probationary basis may apply for a federal Stafford Loan during this initial probationary semester of study. Students placed on or continued on probation as a result of their graduate academic record at the College are not eligible for College or federal financial assistance, including student loans. For more information, please write or call:

Springfield College  
Office of Financial Aid  
263 Alden Street  
Springfield, MA 01109-3797  
413 748 3108



**FOUNDED IN 1885**, Springfield College is known worldwide as the Birthplace of Basketball® and for the guiding principles of its Humanics philosophy—educating students in spirit, mind, and body for leadership in service to others. Springfield College, with its foundation of academic excellence and rich athletic heritage, prepares students with real-world leadership skills for tomorrow’s careers that transform lives and communities. A range of undergraduate and graduate degree programs are offered in fields of health sciences, human and social services, sport management and movement studies, education, business, and the arts and sciences. Doctoral programs are in physical education and physical therapy. The College is ranked in the 2010 edition of “America’s Best Colleges” in the top tier of “Best Universities—Master’s—North Region” by *U.S. News & World Report*, and is designated a premier Leadership Development Center by the YMCA of the USA. More than 5,000 traditional, nontraditional, and international students study at its main campus in Springfield, Massachusetts, and at its School of Human Services regional campuses located in ten other U.S. locations.



**Springfield College Office of Graduate Admissions**

263 Alden Street, Springfield, MA 01109-3797

Tel (413) 748-3225 TTY (413) 748-3383

Learn more about our graduate programs at:

**[www.springfieldcollege.edu](http://www.springfieldcollege.edu)**