Program Description

The Master of Science in Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling (MSCRMHC) program offers a rigorous curriculum of live and online coursework and fieldwork experiences designed to prepare graduates for state licensure eligibility and national certification. The program is been fully accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP) for Rehabilitation Counseling. CACREP has established standards for the accreditation of graduate programs in the counseling fields. These standards are carried out in a number of ways: through continued curriculum development and implementation; by fostering relationships between students and faculty; and competitive staffing of the programs. Students benefit by participating in a program that is nationally recognized for its quality and high academic standards.

Program Outcomes

The MSCRMHC program has an open enrollment policy, admitting 23 students in the AY 2016-2017. On average, 44 students are enrolled and 14 graduate each year from the program. For AY 2016-17, 42 were enrolled and 12 graduated. The average time to complete the program is 6 semesters. Student learning outcomes are assessed at multiple points, using multiple measures for each of the CORE-CACREP based knowledge and skill domains. Program retention rate for AY 2016-17 was 78%. Students/graduates of the program taking the national certification examination (CRC), during the reporting period October 21, 2012 through June 22, 2016, had a pass rate of 85 percent. The program curriculum meets the academic preparation requirements for licensure (LCPC) in Montana.

The program maintains a recommended ratio of FTE students to FTE faculty (10:1) and student headcount to advisor ratio (20:1) and an individual supervision equivalency (5:1) for students in their clinical/fieldwork placements. The program has four full-time, tenure-track faculty who teach the CORE-CACREP based curriculum.

Estimated cost for tuition and fees to attend the program (based on 9 credits per semester) is approximately $2,500 for in-state residents and $4,500 for out-of-state residents. Available types of financial aid include student loans, graduate/research assistantships and tuition waivers, and scholarships. The program also works closely with Disability Support Services to assist students who qualify for the provision of reasonable accommodations so they may more fully participate in all aspects of their program.
Employment rate for program graduates is over 92 percent within the first 6 months of graduation. Graduates of the program have found employment in state and federal agencies, community based rehabilitation and mental health centers, hospitals and rehabilitation facilities, schools and universities, and other private and public social service organizations.

Admission Criteria and Application Procedure
The MSCRMHC program does not require a specific undergraduate degree for admission. However, a major in one of the social sciences, with course work in abnormal and developmental psychology, and basic statistics or measurement, better prepares an applicant for the program.

Applicants seeking admission to the program must submit all application materials to the Office of Graduate Studies by the current graduate catalog deadline dates. No applications will be considered until all required information arrives at the Office of Graduate Studies.

Application materials include:

1. Completed MSU Billings Graduate School Application.

2. Application essay. The essay will be no more than four typed pages, double-spaced, and answer the following questions: Why have you chosen this career path? What strengths or assets do you bring to the program? What has influenced your decision to pursue a career in the counseling profession?

3. Current vita or resume.

4. Complete, official transcripts from all institutions attended. Preference is given to students with an undergraduate cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or above. Students with cumulative GPAs of 2.75 – 3.00 may be considered for provisional admission.

5. Three letters of recommendation from professionals who can provide an evaluation of the applicant’s potential as a graduate student, professional abilities and potential for success. Appropriate references include work and volunteer supervisors and college/university faculty within the counseling/human services profession. References may not include personal clergy, personal current or past counselor/therapist, colleagues, or friends/relatives.
6. Official notification of scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) general test. Preference is given to applicants who score above the 50th percentile on Verbal Reasoning and Analytical Writing. Applicants with GRE scores older than 3 years must retake the test.

Completed applications are reviewed by the program faculty screening committee and a personal interview, either in person or by telephone, may be scheduled. Consideration is given to the relevant qualifications of applicants across all required areas. No one criterion is used in selecting applicants for admission. Program faculty is dedicated to recruiting and accepting a diverse body of applicants who are sensitive to the needs of our increasingly pluralistic society. Beginning in the AY 2017-18, all incoming MSCRMH C students will be required to participate in a New Student Orientation prior to their first semester of study.

Careers: What can you do with a degree in Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling?

Rehabilitation Counselor
Therapist
Mental Health Counselor
Chemical Dependency Counselor

Some of our recent graduates responded to a Graduate Data survey taken 9 months after graduation. Of the 4 Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling graduates who did respond to the survey, all 4 or 100% are employed in their field. They reported an average salary of $40,650.

Financial Aid, Scholarships, and Assistantships

Graduate students who wish to apply for financial assistance must be enrolled in a graduate program for at least 6 credits for half-time aid or 9 credits for full-time aid. Non-degree graduate students are not eligible for financial aid. To apply for financial aid, a student must complete the (FAFSA) application. March 1 is the priority deadline. There are loans, graduate assistantships, partial tuition credits, and scholarships available. Please see our website for further information: www.msubillings.edu/grad/

Contact Us

Please contact the Office of Graduate Studies for information about programs, admission requirements, application forms, graduate assistantships, and other scholarship information. We look forward to visiting with you.

David Sullivan, Counselor  Administrative Support
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I. Required Courses
REHA 501 Principles of Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling ...................... 3
REHA 502 Individual and Family Response to Disability ........................................... 3
REHA 503 Psychiatric Rehabilitation ............................................................................. 3
REHA 505 Theories of Counseling ................................................................................... 3
REHA 507 Professional Orientation and Ethical Practice ........................................... 3
REHA 508 Multicultural/Gender Issues in Counseling ............................................... 3
REHA 515 Medical & Psychological Aspects of Disability ......................................... 3
REHA 517 Research and Program Evaluation .............................................................. 3
REHA 519 Human Growth & Development .................................................................. 3
REHA 520 Group & Individual Evaluation .................................................................... 3
REHA 521 Advanced Individual Counseling ................................................................. 3
REHA 523 Advanced Group Counseling ....................................................................... 3
REHA 525 Career Development, Placement, & Support ........................................... 3
REHA 560 DSM-5 for Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counselors ........................ 3

II. Required Clinical Work
REHA 590 Prepracticum for Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling ............ 3
REHA 594 Counseling Practicum .................................................................................... 3
REHA 596 Cooperative Education/Internship ............................................................... 12

III. Thesis Option
REHA 599 Thesis .............................................................................................................. 1-6

Total minimum credits required for degree/with Thesis ............................................. 60/66