ASU

Masters of Rehabilitation Counseling Program

Student Handbook

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MRC Program

Arkansas State University

State University, AR 72467

*Alternative formats of the Student Handbook are available upon request. Please contact the Program Coordinator.*

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**Mission**

The mission of the Masters of Rehabilitation Counseling (MRC) program at Arkansas State University is to prepare graduates to provide quality rehabilitation and counseling services to individuals with physical, mental, cognitive, developmental and emotional disabilities, enabling them to achieve their personal, social, psychological and vocational goals.

**Objectives**

The MRC program implements its Mission and Objectives with the guidance of the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) and the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC). CORE is the program's national academic accrediting body. CORE recognizes, based on empirical evidence, that rehabilitation professionals must acquire the knowledge and develop the competencies required to work with individuals with disabilities and their significant others. Thus, according to CORE's standards, the MRC program provides its students with the opportunity to:

1. Provides our students with the knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary in providing quality services to individuals with disabilities.
2. Instills a commitment to professional development and lifelong learning.
3. Prepares graduates to advocate for all persons with disabilities, seeking social justice and equity in their treatment, with the end goal of improving quality of life outcomes for the populations we serve.
4. Prepares graduates to gain national certification as Certified Rehabilitation Counselors (CRC), and state licensure as Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC).
5. Increases the number of qualified professionals with both CRC and LPC credentials throughout Northeast Arkansas.

Secondly, the MRC program is guided by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC). The CRCC certifies, nationally and internationally, rehabilitation counseling professionals, or Certified Rehabilitation Counselors (CRC). The CRCC's empirically-based certification standards are grounded in a belief system that is centered on individuals with disabilities and their significant others. This belief system includes a core set of values, ethical guidelines, and professional commitments to individuals with disabilities and their significant others. The MRC program provides its students with the opportunity to develop the competencies needed to implement CRCC's core beliefs. Thus, the program provides its students the opportunity to develop the competency to:

• Facilitate the inclusion, independence, and integration of people with disabilities in employment settings

• Facilitate the inclusion, independence, and integration of people with disabilities

in our community;

• Advocate for the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in all of the rights and

privileges as members of our community;

• "Teach" individuals with disabilities the skills to advocate for their community- membership rights and privileges;

• Engage in professional rehabilitation practices;

• Value the diversity of individuals with disabilities;

• Develop working-partnership relationships that are grounded in dignity and worth;

• Build from assets; and

• Engage significant others in the rehabilitation process.

**Accreditation**

The Masters of Rehabilitation Counseling (MRC) program is accredited by the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE). The program is seeking re-accreditation this academic year, 2005-2006. The MRC program is housed in the Department of Psychology and Counseling in the College of Education. The College of Education is accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). Arkansas State University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

**Academic Advisor**

Masters of Rehabilitation (MRC) students are assigned an academic advisor upon admission into the MRC program. The academic advisor is a rehabilitation counselor educator. Students are to meet with their academic advisor at least one time per semester.

**Curriculum**

The Masters of Rehabilitation Counseling (MRC) program's Curriculum is driven by the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) and the Council on Rehabilitation Counseling Certification (CRCC). The program's curriculum prepares future rehabilitation professionals to work with individuals with disabilities and their significant others. Thus, MRC students are provided instruction in the following **CRCC-knowledge domains** (in alphabetical order): career counseling and assessment techniques; case and caseload management; foundations, ethics, and professional issues; group and family counseling; healthcare and disability systems; individual counseling; job development and placement services; medical, functional, and environmental implications of disability; mental health counseling; psychosocial and cultural issues in counseling; rehabilitation services and resources; and vocational consultation and employer services. CRCC's knowledge domains incorporate the more general **CORE­ knowledge domains** (i.e., alphabetically: assessment; counseling and consultation; employment and career development; group work; human growth and development; medical, functional, environmental; professional identity; psychosocial aspects of disability; research and program evaluation; and social and cultural diversity issues).

The Masters of Rehabilitation Counseling (MRC) as August 2016 curriculum is provided below.

**Required** (60 semester hours)

*MRC Program’s Content Courses*

COUN 6243 Case Management in Rehabilitation\*

PSY 5753 Introduction to Rehabilitation\*

COUN 6263 Medical Aspects of Disability

PSY 6563 Psychosocial Aspects of Disability\*

COUN 6253 Vocational Services in Rehabilitation\*

*MRC Program’s Clinical Experiences*

COUN 6203 Counseling Pre-practicum+

COUN 6283 Practicum in Rehabilitation Counseling+

COUN 6303 Internship I in Rehabilitation Counseling+

COUN 6323 Internship II in Rehabilitation Counseling+

*General Counseling Content Courses*

COUN 6043 Career and Lifestyle Development\*

COUN 6053 Ethical, Legal, & Professional Issues in Counseling\*

COUN 6123 Group Dynamics\*+

PSY 6573 Psychological Testing\*+

COUN 6033 Social & Cultural Foundations of Counseling\*

PSY 6213 Statistics and Research Design in Psychology and Counseling\*

OR EDFN 6773 Introduction to Statistics and Research\*

PSY 6113 Theories and Techniques in Helping Relationships\*

PSY 7633 Physiological Psychology & Psychopharmacology

COUN 7803 Introduction to Couples and Family Counseling \*

PSY 7533 Psychopathology\*+ (abnormal psychology)

+prerequisities; \*licensure board course content

**Elective** (Electives are optional, but strongly recommended)

COUN 6313 Alcohol and Drug Abuse\*

PSY 6523 Behavior Assessment and Intervention

COUN 6913 Child and Adolescent Counseling\*

PSY 6613 Professional Consultation

COUN 6423 Psychosocial Aspects of Aging

PSY 6543 Psychosocial Aspects of Development\*

COUN 6273 Special Problems in Rehabilitation

**COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION**

In addition to the program's formal coursework, Masters of Rehabilitation Counseling (MRC) students are required to complete successfully a comprehensive examination. All students must pass the written comprehensive exam prior to graduation. A passing grade is a 70% or better. Students must have a "B" or better letter grade in the program's required courses to sit for the comprehensive examination. Students taking the MRC- program specific comprehensive receive the Comprehensive Study Guide within the first two weeks of the semester during which the will take the examination.

MRC candidates are advised to take their final examination subsequent to completion of all course work.

**ASU POLICIES**

Equal Opportunity *I* Affirmative Action

Arkansas State University is an equal opportunity institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, disability or other unlawful factors in employment practices or admission and treatment of students. Any questions regarding this policy should be addressed to the Coordinator of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, Arkansas State University, P.O. Box 2100, State University, Arkansas 72467. Telephone (870) 972-3454 (Graduate School Bulletin, p. ii).

Individuals with Disabilities

Arkansas State University's Coordinator of Services to the Disabled also is the university's compliance coordinator for Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of

1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. In this capacity, the coordinator arranges for academic adjustments and auxiliary aids to be provided to qualified students and coordinates workplace accommodations. The coordinator also is the individual to whom concerns about physical access to facilities should be addressed. The coordinator's office is located in the Student Affairs Office, Chickasaw Building. The telephone number is 870-972-3964.

Arkansas State University will provide auxiliary aids, without cost, to those students with verified disabilities/handicaps who require such services. If service providers are necessary, Arkansas State University will provide appropriately trained providers (other than paid tutors). (Graduate School Bulletin, p. ii).

Freedom of Expression

No rights are more highly regarded at Arkansas State University than the First Amendment guarantees of freedom of speech, freedom of expression, and the right to assemble peaceably. Arkansas State University remains firmly committed to affording each member of the university community the opportunity to engage in peaceful and orderly protests and demonstrations. However, these activities must not disrupt the operation of the university. Additionally, such opportunities must be provided on an equal basis and adhere to the basic principle that the university will remain neutral as to the content of any public demonstration. In order to achieve this objective, while at the same time ensuring that the institution fulfills its educational mission, the university has the responsibility to regulate the time, place and manner of expression. Through such regulation, equal opportunity for all persons can be assured; order within the university community can be preserved; university property can be protected; and a secure environment for individuals to exercise freedom of expression can be provided (see. Handbook for specific provisions and regulations; Student Handbook, 2004-

2005, p. 42).

Sexual Harassment

Arkansas State University is committed to creating and maintaining a university community that is free from all forms of sexual harassment. ASU shall not tolerate harassment in relation to the evaluation of employee or student performance, nor shall the university tolerate such behavior on the context of collegial and/or co-worker interaction. Such conduct is an abuse of authority and position. ASU maintains as its official policy that sexual harassment of either employees or students will not be tolerated. The university shall act promptly to investigate all allegations of sexual harassment and to effect appropriate remedy

when an allegation is determined to be valid. (see, Student Handbook for specific

provisions and enforcement policies; Student Handbook, 2004-2005, p. 48).

Academic Records Privacy Rights

Arkansas State University intends to comply fully with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 which was designed to protect the privacy of education records, to establish the right of students to inspect and review their education records, and to provide guidelines for the correction of inaccurate or misleading data through informal and formal hearings. Students also have the right to file complaints with FERPA office concerning alleged failures by the institution to comply with the Act. Questions concerning the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act should be referred to the Registrar's Office.

**Code** of Conduct

It is understood that a regulation concerning every possible act of misconduct

cannot be specifically stated. However, the following acts of misconduct apply whether they are performed singly, in groups, or at a function of an organization.

These acts of misconduct could result in arrests and charges being filed under

local, state or federal laws.

By allowing the existence of behaviors or items that violate Arkansas State University policy, procedures, or Code of Conduct, students have demonstrated an implied consent for the violation(s) and thus may be equally charged for the violation(s). In addition, students will be considered in violation if they fail to remove themselves from incriminating situations and/or report the incident to proper authorities.

Finally, the university reserves the right to discipline students for acts of misconduct wherever they occur. Acts of violence, weapons possession, and possession of illegal drugs will not be tolerated and will result in separation from the university.

1. Possession, use and/or distribution of alcoholic beverages, in any form, in or about university grounds, instructional buildings, residence halls, or at any university approved activity on or off campus and/or impairment which can be attributed to the use of alcohol;

2. Use, manufacturing, distribution or possession of drugs, narcotics, chemicals and/or drug paraphernalia without medical prescription under medical supervision and/or impairment which can be attributed to the use of such drugs;

3. Gambling on or about university property and residence halls;

4. Disorderly conduct, such as, but not limited to, acts that are against the public peace, order, or safety, and/or lewd, indecent, obscene conduct or expression on or off the campus;

5. Unauthorized or illegal entry into a building, classroom, office, room, vehicle or residence hall, and/or unauthorized use or possession of university property; -

6. Violation of regulations and policies governing residence in university owned or controlled property (see the Residence Hall Calendar/Contract);

7. Dishonesty, such as academic cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information, including forgery, alteration, or misuse of university documents, or identification;

8. Physical assault (including rape/sexual assault) or harassment (including sexual harassment/verbal abuse), threat of physical harm of any person or self, and/or conduct which threatens or endangers the health, safety, or welfare of any such person;

9. Non-recognized student groups attempting to function on the campus or in the name of Arkansas State University;

10. Failure to comply with directions, verbal or written, of university officials, law enforcement agents, or residence hall staff while performing of their duties. Refusing to respond to an official request related to an alleged violation of university policy or regulation or giving false testimony or fraudulent evidence in university disciplinary proceedings;

11. Failure to fulfill obligations associated with an official disciplinary sanction;

12. Possession or use of firearms, fireworks, other weapons, or chemicals which are of an explosive or corrosive nature on university property or at university functions;

13. Theft, attempted theft, possession, sale or barter of, or damage to property of the university or of a member of the university community or campus visitor;

14. Failure to register a motor vehicle operated on the campus and abide by the stated rules of the university regulating the use of such vehicles;

15. Engaging in overt physical acts that interfere with the normal or sponsored activities of the university on or off the campus, including, but not limited

to, the blocking of ingress or egress to the university's physical facilities, tampering with public utilities, or prevention of freedom of movement or expression by other students, university officials, law enforcement agents, faculty members, employees and invited guests;

16. Failure to abide by university regulations regarding residence hall visitation, inter-visitation, and security;

17. The instigation of false fire/explosion, or emergency alarms, bomb threats, tampering/misusing or damaging fire extinguishers, alarms or other safety equipment;

18. All forms of hazing such as any action taken or situation created, intentionally, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, ridicule, or possibly cause mental or physical harm or injury to any person on or off the university campus (NOTE: Arkansas Act 75 of 1983 states: No student of any school, college, university, or other educational institution in Arkansas shall engage in what is commonly known and recognized as hazing, or encourage, aid, or assist any other students in the commission of this offense);

19. Violation of policies, procedures or regulations included in official publications of the University such as, but not limited to, the undergraduate and graduate bulletins, the traffic brochures, posted notices, other departmental publications, and Residence Hall Calendar/Regulations;

20. Misuse, abuse, and unauthorized use of computing resources, and/or use of computing resources for unauthorized purposes such as, but not limited to, destroying, modifying, accessing, or copying programs, records, or data belonging to the university or another user without permission;

21. Arrest for violation of local, state, or federal law, and/or conduct that adversely affects the student's suitability as a member of the university community.

22. Students are responsible for the conduct of their guests on or in university

property and at functions sponsored by the university or any recognized university organization. (Note: residence hall violations are not included.

(2004-2005 Student Handbook, pp. 27-29).

*Academic Integrity*

Arkansas State University enthusiastically promotes academic integrity and

professional ethics among all members of the ASU academic community. Violations of this policy are considered as serious misconduct and may result in disciplinary action and severe penalties.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the act of taking and/or using the ideas, work, and/or writings of another person as one's own.

1. To avoid plagiarism give written credit and acknowledgment to the source of thoughts, ideas, and/or words, whether you have used direct quotation,

paraphrasing, or just a reference to a general idea.

2. If you directly quote works written by someone else, enclose the quotation with quotation marks and provide an appropriate citation (e.g., footnote, endnote, bibliographical reference).

3. Research, as well as the complete written paper, must be the work of the person seeking academic credit for the course. (Papers, book reports,

projects, and/or other class assignments)

Discipline: Faculty members may respond to cases of plagiarism in any of the following ways:

1. Return the paper or other item for rewriting; the grade may be lowered.

2. Give a failing grade on the paper or other "F" if a letter grade is used or zero if a numerical grade is used.

3. Give the student who plagiarized a failing grade in the course.

4. Recommend sanctions, including disciplinary expulsion from the university. All cases should be referred to the student conduct system.

Cheating: Cheating is an act of dishonesty with the intention of obtaining and/or using information in a fraudulent manner. Observing and/or copying from another student's test paper, reports, computer files and/or other class assignments. Giving or receiving assistance during an examination period. (This includes providing specific answers to subsequent examinees and/or dispensing or receiving information that would allow the student to have an unfair advantage in the examination over students who did not possess such information.)

Using class notes, outlines, and other unauthorized information during an examination. Using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting, in part or in whole the contents of an examination or other assignment not authorized by the professor of the class. Using for credit in one class a term paper, book report, project, or class assignment written for credit in another class without the knowledge and permission of the professor of the class. Exchanging places with another person for the purpose of taking an examination or completing other assignments. (Student Handbook 2004-2005, pp. 30-31).

Violations

Violations of Arkansas State University’s policies and procedures, including its

Code of Conduct are cumulative in nature (paraphrased, Student Handbook

2004-2005, p. 31).

Student Grievances Academic

Graduate student appeals and grievance processes are outlined in the ASU Student Handbook available in the Office of Student Affairs. All grievances should first be taken to the student's graduate adviser, who will inform the student of the correct procedures to follow. Following proper channels for appeals and grievances is essential to obtain a timely and efficient resolution (Graduate School Bulletin, 2004-2005, p. 38).

Non-Academic- Students with Disabilities

Arkansas State University has adopted an internal grievance procedure providing for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any action prohibited by the U.S. Department of Justice regulations while implementing Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Title II states, in part, that "no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely due to such disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits for, or be subjected to discrimination" in programs or activities sponsored by a public entity . ..

Complaints should be addressed to Dr. Jenifer Rice-Mason, coordinator of ADA and 504 compliance efforts for students. (2004-2005 Student Handbook, pp. 55-56).

NOTE: MRC students are strongly advised to read pages 55-56 of the

2004-2005 Student Handbook regarding the preceding. Contact information regarding complaints/grievances is as follows:

Dr. Jenifer Rice-Mason

P.O. Box 360

State University, AR 72467

Telephone: 870.972.3964

Fax: 870.972.3351

Email: [jrmason@astate.edu](mailto:jrmason@astate.edu)

Graduate Student Status- Probation, Suspension and Dismissal

Probation - Any graduate student whose cumulative GPA on all courses taken for graduate credit falls below a 3.00 will be placed on probation. Students may remove probation by raising their cumulative GPA to 3.00 or better. Failure to make a grade "B" or better in each course taken while on probation will result in suspension from further graduate work if the student's cumulative GPA continues below a 3.00. A graduate student on probation may not hold an assistantship and is not eligible for candidacy or graduation

Suspension - Any graduate student who receives a grade of "F" in any graduate­ level course will be ineligible to register for further graduate work. A grade of "I" will be converted to "F" if it is not removed before the last day to withdraw during the next semester in which the student is enrolled at the university or within one calendar year if the student does not enroll.

Readmission of Suspended Students - After one semester or summer session in suspended status, students may be readmitted on probation, but only upon recommendation of their adviser and department chair and with the approval of the dean of the Graduate School. Readmission to Graduate School does not imply readmission to a particular degree program. The student must reapply to the program.

Dismissal - Students who fail the comprehensive examination the second time will be dropped from candidacy for the degree. (Graduate School Bulletin, 2004-2005, p. 27 and p. 41).

Admission to Candidacy Status

The adviser in consultation with the student will complete the candidacy form, sign it, and submit it in typewritten form in triplicate to the graduate dean for approval after the student has removed any undergraduate course deficiencies or grade provisions which may have been assigned at the time of admission, has completed the prescribed standardized tests if required by the major, and has completed no more than 15 hours of graduate work and earned a grade point average of 3.00 both overall and within the major degree program. Application must be made no later than the end of the enrollment period in which the accumulated total of graduate hours reaches 18. A student who has accumulated fewer than 12 hours at the beginning of a term or more than 18 hours at the end of that term should apply at the end of the particular enrollment period. Failure to apply for admission to candidacy at the proper time may result in failure to meet degree requirements and will result in a delay in the conferring of the degree. A student may not apply for candidacy while on probation or with a GPA of less than 3.00. (Graduate School Bulletin 2004-2005, p. 40).

Comprehensive Examination

All candidates for master's degrees are required to take a comprehensive examination over their program of study. The comprehensive examination may be written or oral or both as determined by the department in which the major is earned. An examination period is scheduled by each department during each enrollment period. The date of the examination is announced during the second week of the session by each department in writing to all enrolled students and to all previously enrolled students who have requested notification. Master's candidates may choose to take the comprehensive examination during any

enrollment period at the departmentally scheduled time. Students must notify the

department chair of the intent to sit for the examination at least two weeks prior to the scheduled test date. Students must pass the examination within the six­ year time limit for completion of degree requirements. Students will not be permitted to take the comprehensive examination unless a "B" average has been earned on all graduate work completed and unless admission to candidacy has been approved.

The examination shall be prepared and graded by the comprehensive examination committee selected from the faculty by the chair of the major department and the dean of the college with the approval of the graduate dean. The committee may consist of members of the major department only. Prior to a deadline established by the Graduate School for each enrollment period, the Graduate School must be notified in writing when students have passed or failed the examination. Students failing the examination may repeat it at a time approved by the comprehensive examination committee but no earlier than the next scheduled period. Before taking the examination again, students should consult with the committee which may require the completion of additional coursework or other additional study.

Students who fail the comprehensive examination the second time will be dropped from candidacy for the degree. (Graduate School Bulletin 2004-2005, p.

40).

Time to Degree

The time allowed for completion of the master's degree is six years, exclusive of time spent in the armed forces of the United States. Graduate work completed prior to six years from the students' date of completion- of the degree cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements. Transfer credit taken prior to admission at Arkansas State University will be included in the six year limit. (Graduate School Bulletin 2004-2005, p. 42).

Grading System

The letters, A, B, C, P, D, F, I, and CR are used in grading, indicating the following qualities: A-Excellent, 8-Good, C-Fair, P-Pass, 0-Poor, F- Failure, 1-lncomplete, CR-Credit awarded for completed thesis/dissertation. For the purpose of computing cumulative and collective grade averages, grade points are assigned as follows: A-4, B-3, C-2, D-1, F-0, P-O. Students' grade point averages are computed by multiplying the number of hours of credit of each grade by the grade points assigned to that grade and dividing the sum of these several products by the total number of hours in which the students were enrolled. Except in the case of dissertation, thesis, creative thesis, exhibition thesis, or field study, an incomplete grade not removed before the last day to withdraw during the next semester in which the student is enrolled at this university or within one calendar year if the student does not enroll, unless extenuating circumstances are provided in writing to the Graduate School, will be recorded as "F." The professor of the course will process a grade change form with the Registrar. No grade below "C" will be accepted for graduate credit. (Graduate School Bulletin, p. 37).

Inclement Weather

The university remains open for academic classes and all other services during inclement weather except in extreme circumstances determined solely by the president of the university. Regional and local news media will publicize the closing. Commuter students are encouraged to use good judgment in deciding whether to drive to campus during inclement weather. In those cases where the decision is made not to travel to campus under this policy, it is the responsibility of the student to immediately contact each of his/her professors upon return to explain the circumstances and to determine the need to complete any missed assignments. The student is responsible for all missed assignments during inclement weather within a time frame to be determined by the professor. (2004-2005 Student Handbook, p. 10).

**Masters of Rehabilitation Counseling (MRC) Program**

Incorporation of Arkansas State University’s Policies

The Masters of Rehabilitation Counseling (MRC) program incorporates Arkansas State University (ASU), the Graduate School, and the Psychology and Counseling Department's policies and procedures that further the program's Mission and the rights of individuals with disabilities.

Professionalism

Masters of Rehabilitation Counseling (MRC) students and candidates must demonstrate professionalism. "Professionalism" is defined as complying with Arkansas State University (ASU's), the Graduate School, and the Department of Psychology and Counseling's policies and procedures as such further the rights of people with disabilities. "Professionalism" is further defined as complying with MRC program-specific policies and procedures and the Code of Ethics of Certified Rehabilitation Counselors (CRC) while student candidate of the MRC program.

Respect for Diversity

Masters of Rehabilitation Counseling (MRC) students/candidates will demonstrate respect for diversity and welcome diversity. An individual who is diverse is someone who is "different" from me. "Different from me" can include, but is not limited to, someone who is of a different age, color, disability, gender, national origin, sex and/or who has different opinions/attitudes. "Demonstrating respect for diversity" is defined as demonstrating a willingness to "hear" (figuratively) the person who is "different from me." "Welcoming diversity" is defined as encouraging individuals who are different from me to educate me about them.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Graduate Assistantships

Graduate Assistantship positions are currently available on a competitive basis, in the Psychology and Counseling department and other departments and offices at Arkansas State University (ASU). Applicants must review the Graduate School Bulletin for a full description of availability, eligibility, and position-retention information.

In general, graduate assistantships require admission to a graduate degree program (e.g., Masters of Rehabilitation Counseling program); a 3.00 GPA regarding graduate-level courses; and enrollment in at least 6 hours, but not more than 12 hours of graduate-level and/or undergraduate courses during the Fall and Spring semesters and 3 to 6 hours during each Summer term. Out-of-state tuition is waived for Graduate Assistants.

**Teaching Assistantships**

Teaching Assistantship positions are currently available on a competitive basis, in the Psychology and Counseling department. In general, teaching assistantships require admission to a departmental graduate degree program (e.g., Masters of Rehabilitation Counseling program); a 3.00 GPA regarding graduate-level courses; and enrollment in at least 6 hours, but not more than 12 hours of graduate-level and/or undergraduate courses during the Fall and Spring semesters and 3 to 6 hours during each Summer term. Out-of-state tuition is waived for Teaching Assistants.

**Federal Financial Assistance**

Federal eligibility is required and applicants are advised to contact Arkansas State University's (ASU) Student Financial Aid Office for eligibility criteria and application deadline information.

Contact information: Student Financial Aid

Arkansas State University

P.O. Box 1620

State University, AR 72467

Phone 870.972.2310

Fax 870.972.2794

**Student Organizations**

Arkansas State University Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ASURCA)

Arkansas State University's Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ASURCA) is the Masters of Rehabilitation Counseling (MRC) program's student association. The purpose of Arkansas State University' Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ASURCA) is to advance the rehabilitation counseling profession. ASURCA members participate in community service and professional development activities.

Chi Sigma Iota

Chi Sigma Iota is an international honor society for students, professional counselors and counselor educators. Chi Sigma Iota promotes scholarship, research, professionalism, leadership, and excellence in counseling. Masters of Rehabilitation Counseling (MRC) students are eligible for membership, providing that they meet the required grade point average admission criteria.

**Professional Associations/Organizations**

General association/organization

American Counseling Association (ACA)

Dues - $85.00

Publications- Counseling Today and Journal of Counseling & Dev

Disability association/organization

American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA)

ARCA is an organization of rehabilitation counseling practitioners, educators, and students who are concerned with improving the lives of people with disabilities. Its mission is to enhance the development of people with disabilities throughout their life span and to promote excellence in the rehabilitation counseling profession. ARCA's

goal is to provide the type of leadership that encourages excellence in the areas of rehabilitation counseling practice, research, consultation, and professional development. ARCA is equally interested in eliminating environmental and attitudinal barriers so that more opportunities are available with regard to education, employment, and community activities to people with disabilities. These goals are addressed by ARCA through public education and legislative activities. One of ARCA's primary goals is to increase public awareness of rehabilitation counseling as a profession and to extend its influence by encouraging members to become involved in the association's outreach and educational efforts. Other goals are to help members develop their leadership skills through participation in ARCA's organizational activities and to work

with state officials to develop appropriate licensure requirements.

Dues- $25.00 if not seeking membership in the American Counseling

Association (ACA) ($15.00 for membership and $10.00 because chose to not join

ACA)

Publication - Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin

National Association for Independent living (NAIL)

Members include persons with disabilities, Rehabilitation Counselors, Independent living Practitioners. The focus of NAIL is empowerment of persons with disabilities. Professionals and consumers of rehabilitation services work together to enhance the quality of life and promote the rights of citizens with disabilities. NAIL advocates for the power of informed choice. The division (of NRA] will eliminate the barriers to equal participation for persons with disabilities. The division (of NRA) provides current information on independent living issues and training workshops, as well as opportunities for networking among peers.

Dues- $15.00 (Note: Membership dues do not differentiate among members).

Publication - NAIL Newsletter

National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns (NAMRC) Members include Rehabilitation Professionals, Human Services

Providers/Specialists, Educators, Rehabilitation Researchers, Rehabilitation Managers/Supervisors, Rehabilitation Consultants, Trainers, Students, Support/Employment Personnel, Persons with Disabilities and Physicians. NAMRC is committed to support and actively champion concerns that affect the rehabilitation needs and services to persons with disabilities to create an understanding of the barriers, impact and outcomes of cultural insensitivity; to enhance service delivery; to ensure the provision of equitable and quality rehabilitation services; to develop professional education and certification of creditable cultural awareness and education programs; to advocate, propose and support legislation that addresses the needs of , multicultural persons with disabilities and their significant others.

Dues- $10.00

Publication - Cultural Network Newsletter

National Association of Service Providers in Private Rehabilitation (NASPPR) Members include Rehabilitation Counselors, Rehabilitation Nurses, Placement

Specialist, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Vocational Evaluators, Job

Developers, Employers, Speech Pathologists, Insurance Adjusters, Administrators, Mangers/Supervisors, Educators, Attorneys, Physicians, and Students. NASPPR works to improve the quality of the entire rehabilitation process from the medical phase to the job placement phase. Members provide a wide variety of medical, rehabilitation, employment insurance and legal services in highly diverse settings. The [of NRA] division provides a forum where professionals from many disciplines can work more closely together to enhance the delivery of services to people with disabilities.

Dues-$ 5.00

Publication - Private Rehab

National Association for Rehabilitation Leadership (NARL)

Members include Non-profit Rehabilitation Instructors, State Agency Vocational Rehabilitation Instructors and Private Instructors. NARL supports professional training sessions on the state and regional levels and encourages development of rehabilitation administrators. This [NRA] division has grants-in-aid programs for both state and regional units. These grants are awarded to support professional programming in the area of administration and supervision and other operational needs.

Dues- $15.00

Publication - Journal of Rehabilitation Administration and NARL Newsletter

National Council on Rehabilitation Association (NCRA)

Members include Rehabilitation Counselors, Rehabilitation Counselor Educators, Researchers in Rehabilitation Counseling, Students in Training and Support Personnel to Rehabilitation Counselors. NCRA strives to accommodate the professional interests and needs of all rehabilitation counselors, regardless of their work setting or job title. NCRA also dedicates itself to the pursuit of self-fulfillment of all persons with disabilities, providing opportunities for students to participate in professional activities and to interface with experienced practitioners in the field of rehabilitation.

Publication - Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling and With One Voice

National Rehabilitation Association

The National Rehabilitation Association (NRA) is a member organization whose mission is to promote ethical and excellent practice in rehabilitation."

Dues- $25.00

Publication - Contemporary Rehabilitation

National Rehabilitation Association of Job Placement and Development (NRAJPD) Members include Public Non-Profit and Private Sector Placement Professionals,

Job Train professionals, Public and Private Employment Agency Personnel and EEO Officers. The (NRA] NRAJPD Division advances the employment of persons with disabilities by enhancing the skills of job placement professionals. The [NRA] division continues to develop programs responsive to the specialties within rehabilitation placement, such as Projects with Industry (PWI) Transitional and Supportive Employment. The [NRA] division also provides training for its members in such job placement practices as networking, job banks, computerized job matching systems, ergonomics, and job readiness training.

Dues- $8.00

Publications - Job Placement Digest and Journal of Job Placement

National Rehabilitation Counseling Association

Dues - $20.00

Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment Association (VEV'MIA)

Members include Vocational Evaluators, Work Adjustment Specialists, Transition

Specialists and Supported Employment Personnel. VEWAA represents the interests and needs of human service professionals who provide vocational evaluation/assessment and work adjustment services. VEWAA's mission is to improve and advance the professions of vocational evaluation and work adjustment.

Dues- $5.00

Publication - VEWAA Bulletin and VEWAA Newsletter

**CERTIFIED REHABILITATION COUNSELOR**

Graduates of the Masters of Rehabilitation Counseling (MRC) program are eligible, academically, to seek Certified Rehabilitation Counselors (CRC) status. They are eligible because the MRC program is accredited by the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE). Graduates who seek CRC status must be willing to sit for the CRC

examination that is administered by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) and to conduct their professional lives as CRC's per the CRCC's Code of Ethics for Rehabilitation Counselors.

Note: The Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC), as an organization, is independent from the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE). The independent existence of the CRCC and CORE is critical. Its independence helps to ensure that the MRC graduate will enter the professional world with an academic education guided by (a) professional rehabilitation educators, primarily CORE, and (b) practicing rehabilitation counselors, CRCC, per empirical research. Thus, an MRC student is advised to "take advantage" of both his/her teachers' life, education and work experience and his/her peers' life, education and work experiences.

MRC graduates are encouraged to become Certified Rehabilitation Counselors

(CRC) for the following four reasons:

**First,** being a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor informs the consumer/client that the rehabilitation professional has met the national standard, set by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor (CRCC), to work with individuals and disabilities and their significant others and to follow the CRCC's Code of Ethics for Certified Rehabilitation Counselors.

**Second,** CRC certification provides the MRC graduate with a professional identity. He/she is a professional who works with individuals with disabilities and their significant others to (a) facilitate inclusion, independence, and integration in employment and our community; (b) advocate for rights and privileges; and (c) develop working partnerships grounded in dignity and worth and building from assets. He/she has chosen to follow the CRCC's Code of Ethics for Certified Rehabilitation Counselors.

**Third,** CRC certification ensures that State-Federal Vocational Rehabilitation Services' consumers that their counselors are **qualified** rehabilitation counselors and that his/her counselor has chosen to comply with the CRCC's Code of Ethics for Certified Rehabilitation Counselors.

**Fourth,** CRC certification informs **employers** that their professional rehabilitation employees have met the national standard, set by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor (CRCC), to work with individuals and disabilities and their significant others. Furthermore, it informs employers that the employee has chosen to comply with the CRCC's Code of Ethics for Certified Rehabilitation Counselors.

**Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Examination**

The Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) examination is research-driven. The exam consists of 300 multiple-choice questions: 150 questions in the morning session; 150 questions in the afternoon session. Fifty of the 300 questions are "field test" questions and are not used to determine pass/fail status. The examination's content includes disability-specific and general counseling information. The preceding reflects the reality that professionals who are working with individuals with disabilities and their significant others must possess a broad knowledge and competency base. The lives of individuals with disabilities and their significant others are complex. Examinees must earn a passing score on both the disability-specific and general content counseling areas.

**NOTE:** The Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) has not endorsed any study guide regarding the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor examination.

**STATE OF ARKANSAS- LICENSED ASSOCIATE COUNSELOR**

Graduates of the Masters of Rehabilitation Counseling (MRC) program are academically eligible to seek counselor licensure in the State of Arkansas through the Board of Examiners of Counseling if they have met the Board's requirements. The Board's requirements include the following: (a) completing 60 graduate hours, (b) documenting academic exposure to professional identity, social and cultural diversity, human growth and development, career development, helping relations, group work, assessment, research and program evaluation, abnormal psychology/DSM and lCD use/psychopathology, family and relationships, psychopharmacology, and (c) three semesters of practica and internship experiences culminating in a 600-hour internship experience. Licensure applicants must earn a '"'B" or better in all courses cited in the application as addressing the preceding domains. After completing the Board's LAC requirements, graduates are eligible to seek Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) status.

**Note:** Students seeking counselor licensure in a state other than the State of Arkansas are responsible for ensuring that the MRC's program's academics will meet the other state's licensure laws and regulations.

Since it began licensing counselors in 1979, the Board has recognized that Arkansans with disabilities and their significant others should have access to counselors whose academic preparation specifically addresses their lives. The Board, since its beginning, has continuously recognized the preceding via its "Rehabilitation Counseling"

specialty licensure area. Only Certified Rehabilitation Counselors (CRC) are eligible to request the "Rehabilitation Counseling" specialty designation.

MRC Graduates who wish to provide counseling services to individuals with disabilities are encouraged to seek the Licensed Associate Counselor (LAC) credential with a specialty designation in "Rehabilitation Counseling" for the following five reasons:

**First**, general licensure informs the consumer/client that his/her Licensed Associate Counselor (LAC), and subsequent Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) has met the State of Arkansas' academic preparation requirements;

**Second**, the "Rehabilitation Counseling" specialty designation informs the

consumer/client that his/her counselor has met the national standard, set by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor (CRCC), to work with individuals and disabilities and their significant others is willing to comply with the CRCC's Code of Ethics for Certified Rehabilitation Counselors, in addition to the Board's adopted code of

ethics, American Counseling Association's Code of Ethics.

**Third,** licensure with the "Rehabilitation Counseling" specialty designation provides the MRC graduate with a professional identity. This professional identity includes both a commitment to individuals with disabilities and their significant others. Additionally, the identity/commitment indicates willingness to comply with the CRCC's Code of Ethics for Certified Rehabilitation Counselors, in ad9ition to the Board's adopted code of ethics, American Counseling Association's Code of Ethics.

**Fourth,** licensure as an LAC informs the employer that its professional

employee has met the Board's standards, as evidenced by (a) a passing score on the

National Counselor Examination (NCE); (b) successfully completing the Board's oral examination; and (c) agreeing to comply with the America Counseling Association's Code of Ethics.

**Fifth,** licensure as an LAC with the addition of the "Rehabilitation Counseling"

specialty designation informs the **employer** its professional employee has met the Board's standards, as evidenced by (a) a passing score on the National Counselor Examination (NCE); (b) successfully completing the Board's oral examination; (c) agreeing to comply with the American Counseling Association's Code of Ethics; (d) choosing to comply with the CRCC's Code of Ethics for Certified Rehabilitation Counselors.

**Note:** While the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Counselors requires a passing score on the National Counseling Exam (NCE) prior to the oral examination, it is not clear if the Board endorses or has endorsed study guides for such.