Introduction

The Rehabilitation Counseling Program at Bayamon Central University began on March 2008. It consists of a curriculum of 48 credits hours, including 100 hours of practicum and 600 hours of internship. The clinical experience promotes and facilitates the acquisition of knowledge, and the analysis and application of skills. The program strives to develop counselors who are sensitive to human development, focusing on social justice and equal opportunities for the population with disabilities.

The program is approved by the Board of Higher Education and is accredited by the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) for a period of eight (8) years. In addition to the successful completion of 48 credit hours, students must pass a comprehensive exam and licensure examination in order to become a Licensed Rehabilitation Counselor in Puerto Rico.

Vision

To become a program of excellence that will strengthen and exalt the profession of Rehabilitation Counseling and diversify the services available to people with disabilities.

Mission

The Master's program in Rehabilitation Counseling seeks to develop professionals with specialized knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to provide and coordinate services and advocate for people with disabilities enabling them to achieve their personal, psychological and vocational goals and to achieve inclusion and integration into all activities of daily living.

Accreditation

The MRC is accredited by the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE), for a period of eight years, beginning in the academic year 2011-2012 and ending in 2018-2019. The program is also approved by the Board of Education of Puerto Rico.

Enrollment, graduate and retention rate in the last three years (August 2010 to May 2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic year</th>
<th>New Students</th>
<th>Total students enrolled per year</th>
<th>Graduates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>62</strong></td>
<td><strong>----</strong></td>
<td><strong>35</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Retention Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Enrollment</th>
<th>N = 89</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continued in 2013</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retained</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No retained</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The retention rate in the last three years has been approximately 81%.

Average time to complete the Master of Rehabilitation Counseling

The average time to complete the degree is 2 years, completing 6 credits per quarter term.

Estimated cost of Program Attendance

The master’s degree consists of 48 credit units. The cost is approximately 12,690.00.

Available Scholarships

The RSA "Long Term Training Scholarship" has been approved for a period of five years, beginning August 2009 through August 2014. In addition, the PPOHA scholarship covering from 2010 to 2015 is available to qualifying students.

Employment rate of graduates within the first 6 months following graduation

Based on 35 graduate students during the period of August 2010 to May 2013, 17 (49%) are employed, 8 (47%) were employed within the first six months after graduation. It is important to note that in Puerto Rico to work as a rehabilitation counselor, it is necessary to be licensed by the Board of Examiners of rehabilitation counselors. The Board is offered twice a year. Some of the graduates have obtained employment outside of Puerto Rico where licensure is not required.

Employment settings where graduates work

Graduates have been employed in the following setting: Vocational Rehabilitation Administration, Department of Education, Private Organizations, Independent Living Centers, Universities, Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Service (Virginia), and Veterans Administration.

Eligibility for Licensure and passing rates

To obtain the license, students must complete 48 credits hours and an institutional specialty exam. Based on the 35 students who have completed the MCR, 100% have passed the specialty exam of which 15 students took the Board to obtain de license, 14 (93%) received a passing score. One student (100%) took and passed the Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRC).
Policy and Process for Program Evaluation

The program is evaluated every four years in order to assess its effectiveness. It follows the standards of the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) and the guide for the evaluation of BCU’s academic program evaluation and the Comprehensive Program Evaluation Plan.

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of the program, the following factors were considered: passing rate of the comprehensive exam requested by the institution, passing rate of the exam to become a licensed rehabilitation counselor as required by the Examining Board of Rehabilitation Counselors in Puerto Rico, student satisfaction, student self-assessment, evaluation, student clinical evaluation experience, site supervisor’s student evaluation, site supervisor evaluation of clinical experience, employers and curriculum evaluation

Dr. Elba Ríos, Ed.D., MRC, CRC
RCE Program Coordinator

September 10/2013