Rehabilitation Psychology, B.S.

Rehabilitation Psychology is the academic home to many students interested in the health or helping professions. Rehab Psych students enjoy working with people with disabilities. They gravitate toward psychology and other coursework in the social sciences.

In this major, students learn how to promote and support the independence and full inclusion of people with disabilities in employment and the community. Various types of disabilities examined in the major include physical, mental, intellectual, emotional, and developmental disabilities. Graduates are prepared to provide quality entry-level general services in a variety of community settings, including advocacy, behavioral support, independent living, and supported employment.

Many students go on to complete graduate programs in rehabilitation counseling, mental health counseling, occupational therapy, physical therapy, nursing, special education, social work, and other human services and health professions.

The rehabilitation psychology program emphasizes course work in the following areas:

- Psychology and educational psychology
- Sociology and social work
- Rehabilitation services and community supports for individuals with disabilities
- Biological, psycho-social, and vocational aspects of working with individuals with disabilities
- Positive psychology and health promotion for individuals with disabilities
- Working collaboratively with community agencies advocating and supporting individuals with disabilities

The culminating experience in the degree program is the community-based internship. Students complete six credits of internship working with agencies that serve individuals with disabilities. Graduates receive a bachelor of science degree with a major in rehabilitation psychology.

Visit the departmental website for more information about the undergraduate program (http://rpse.education.wisc.edu/rpse/programs/undergraduate-programs/rehabilitation-psychology-undergraduate-program), the field of rehabilitation psychology (https://rpse.education.wisc.edu/rpse/programs/graduate-degree-programs/rehabilitation-psychology-graduate-program/the-profession-of-rehabilitation-counseling), and what current students have to say (http://youtu.be/Zu0u1MOjv84?list=PL9F9013685146C73A) about the program.

HOW TO GET IN

Program Admission Overview

Students are admitted to the rehabilitation psychology undergraduate program twice a year, for the fall and spring semesters. Students usually apply for admission to the rehabilitation psychology program during their sophomore year. Selection to the program will be made at the end of the fall and spring semesters, after the previous semester grades are reported.

Entering the School of Education

New and Current UW–Madison Students

New freshmen and transfer students interested in rehabilitation psychology are admitted directly to the School of Education with a “pre-professional” classification. This classification indicates that a student is interested in a program offered by the School, but has not applied and been admitted to the professional program. Students interested in rehabilitation psychology receive the “pre-professional” classification of PSR.

On-campus students wishing to be admitted to the school while working on eligibility requirements and application can apply for admission to the School of Education by completing a Pre-Professional Application (http://www.education.wisc.edu/soe/academics/undergraduate-students/academic-program-admission). A minimum GPA of 2.5, based on UW–Madison coursework, is required to transfer into the school. This GPA may be modified by the Last 60 Credits rule (detailed below (p. 2)). It is not necessary to be a “pre-professional” student before applying to a professional program. Admission as a “pre-professional” student does not guarantee admission to the professional program.

It is strongly recommended that students interested in a School of Education program meet with an academic advisor in Education Academic Services (EAS), 139 Education Building, 1000 Bascom Mall. Students may call 608-262-1651 to schedule an appointment with an advisor.

Prospective Transfer Students

Applicants not already enrolled on the UW–Madison campus must be admissible to the University to enroll in a School of Education program. Admission to UW–Madison requires a separate application and admission process. See UW–Madison Office of Admissions and Recruitment (http://admissions.wisc.edu) for application information. Prospective transfer students are strongly advised to meet with an Education Academic Services advisor in advance of their application; to schedule, call 608-262-1651.

Students with a Previous Degree

Prospective applicants who already hold an undergraduate degree are strongly encouraged to meet with an School of Education advisor in advance of their application. Consultations with advisors are available in person and via telephone; to schedule, call 608-262-1651.

Applicants who already hold an undergraduate degree are admitted to the School of Education as either an Education Special student or a second degree student, depending on their interests and academic background. Admission as an Education Special student indicates that the student has an interest in pursuing certification in a subject area studied during the initial degree; another degree is not awarded for this “certification only” coursework. Second degree students are seeking a second, unrelated degree from the School of Education, which may, or may not, include teacher certification. Candidates for limited enrollment programs must meet all admission eligibility requirements for the program and must compete with the eligible applicants for program admission. More
To be eligible for admission, applicants must:

- complete at least 54 credits of transferable college-level coursework by the end of the semester the application is filed.
- complete RP & SE 300 Individuals with Disabilities by the end of the program-application semester.
- earn a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale) based on all transferable college-level coursework attempted.\(^1\)
- submit completed program application form(s), transcripts, and all other related application materials by the application deadline specified on the School of Education’s Apply to a Program (http://www.education.wisc.edu/soe/academics/undergraduate-students/academic-program-admission) page.

\(^1\) A comprehensive cumulative GPA of all college-level, transferrable coursework attempted on both the UW–Madison campus coursework and coursework taken at any other colleges or universities may be calculated for the exclusive purpose of establishing an applicant’s eligibility for consideration. Both the comprehensive cumulative GPA and the comprehensive cumulative GPA based on a student’s last 60 credits may be calculated. See Last 60 Credits Rule (detailed below). If admitted, students must earn the minimum cumulative GPA for UW–Madison coursework established by their program and the School of Education each semester after admission.

### APPLICATION REVIEW AND SELECTION

Selection to the program will be made at the end of the fall and spring semesters, after the previous semester grades are reported. The number of applicants admitted each semester will be determined by the faculty according to available resources. While all eligible applicants have been admitted to the professional program in recent years, this may not always be the case; see stipulations below. Admission is not final until all acceptance related materials are received by EAS and criminal background investigation results are reviewed.

If the applicant pool exceeds the resources available for any admission period, admission will become limited and competitive. Selection will be based upon cumulative grade point average. Remaining students will be placed on a waiting list based on ranked order of cumulative grade point average.

### CRIMINAL BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION

Criminal background investigations will be conducted for all students admitted to this program. Detailed instructions on how to complete the required criminal background check will be included in offers of admission. This is not completed until after an applicant has been offered admission.

Results of criminal background checks may be shared with other agencies when required by state code, or with a cooperating school or other agency in which the student has been assigned to complete field experiences. Criminal background checks may also be run on students by school districts. Students should be aware that criminal background checks may be initiated by other agencies or organizations when they are seeking employment or a professional license. Field site administrators have the right to determine the appropriateness of a student placement.

An individual who is deemed ineligible to participate in field or clinical experiences based on the results of their background check may not be able to complete the requirements for their degree or certification. Students with questions about these processes should contact the academic dean in Education Academic Services.

### REQUIREMENTS

#### UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatetestudystext) section of the Guide.
A basic outline of the liberal studies is included below. Students must consult the detailed version of the requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/#requirementstext) for information about course selection and approved course options.

**Humanities, 9 credits**

All students must complete a minimum of 9 credits to include:

- Literature
- Fine Arts
- Humanities Electives

**Social Studies (Social Science)**

All students must complete a minimum of 9 credits. Teacher certification programs, Athletic Training, and Kinesiology; Exercise and Movement Science have unique requirements in this category.

**Science**

All students must complete a minimum of 9 credits to include:

- Biological Science
- Physical Science
- Laboratory Science
- Science Electives

**Cultural and Historical Studies**

All students must complete three requirements (9 credits) met by separate courses. Any of these courses can also be used to meet the Humanities or Social Studies (Social Sciences) requirements if it has the relevant breadth designation.

- Ethnic Studies
- U.S./European History
- Global Perspectives

Complete **Liberal Studies Electives** (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/#requirementstext) to total 40 Credits.

### RELATED COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**PSYCHOLOGY/EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY**

Complete 18 credits selected from Educational Psychology (http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/ed_psych) and/or Psychology (http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/psych) to include PSYCH 405 Abnormal Psychology

Note: Effective fall 2017, the course number of Abnormal Psychology changed from Psych 509 to PSYCH 405.

**SOCIOCY/SOCIAL WORK**

Complete 9 credits selected from Sociology (http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/soc) and/or Social Work (http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/soc_work). Recommended areas include social disorganization, deviant behavior, alcohol and other drug abuse, community development, and issues in social welfare.

**EDUCATIONAL POLICY STUDIES**

Complete a 3-credit course from Educational Policy Studies (http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/ed_pol).
REHABILITATION PSYCHOLOGY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

These requirements are first effective for summer 2017 program admission.

DIDACTIC CORE

Complete the following 18 credits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RP &amp; SE 300</td>
<td>Individuals with Disabilities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RP &amp; SE 500</td>
<td>Rehabilitation-Counseling Psychology: Foundations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RP &amp; SE 501</td>
<td>Rehabilitation-Counseling Psychology: Applications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RP &amp; SE 505</td>
<td>Biological, Psychosocial, and Vocational Aspects of Disabilities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN PSY 650</td>
<td>Theory and Practice in Interviewing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RP &amp; SE 660</td>
<td>Special Topics (Health Promotion for Disability and Chronic Illness)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SUPERVISED FIELD EXPERIENCE

Students are required to take 6 credits of RP & SE 630 Internship in Rehabilitation or Special Education; once in conjunction with RP & SE 501. The remaining 3 credits may be completed in another semester.

REHABILITATION PSYCHOLOGY AND SPECIAL EDUCATION ELECTIVES

Complete 6 credits from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RP &amp; SE 330</td>
<td>Behavior Analysis: Applications to Persons with Disabilities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RP &amp; SE 401</td>
<td>Augmentative and Alternative Communication and Assistive Technology for Students with Disabilities</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RP &amp; SE 402</td>
<td>Methods in Teaching Functional Skills</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RP &amp; SE 405</td>
<td>Current Topics in Special Education</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RP &amp; SE 660</td>
<td>Special Topics (Positive Psychology, Substance Abuse topics only)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The course options listed below can also be applied toward this requirement, but only if taken summer 2017 or earlier.

Any courses from the departments of Rehabilitation Psychology and Special Education (http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/rp_se), Counseling Psychology (http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/coun_psy), Psychology (http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/psych), Educational Psychology (http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/ed_psych), Sociology (http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/soc), Social Work (http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/soc_work), and the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KINES/CURRIC 501</td>
<td>Health Information for Teachers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KINES/CURRIC/ELPA 541</td>
<td>Organization and Administration of School Health Programs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KINES/CURRIC 561</td>
<td>Teacher Education in Human Sexuality</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KINES/CURRIC 567</td>
<td>Issues, Materials and Methods in Health Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KINES 508</td>
<td>Workshop in Kinesiology</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEN&amp;WS 371</td>
<td>Disability and Gender in Film</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 The only topic accepted to meet the requirement is Adaptation of Physical Education Programs.

ELECTIVE COURSEWORK

Complete additional coursework to reach the minimum of 120 credits.

GPA AND OTHER GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Based on UW–Madison coursework.

- 2.50 minimum cumulative grade point average. This may be modified by the Last 60 Credits Rule (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/#policiesandregulationstext).
- 2.50 cumulative grade point average in all major coursework. This GPA includes all coursework from the RP & SE department and Coun Psy 650.
- Major Residency. The rehabilitation psychology program requires that students complete 15 credits of the Didactic Core and Supervised Field Experience coursework while in residence on the UW–Madison campus.
- Senior Residency. Degree candidates must complete their last 30 credits in residence on the UW–Madison campus, excluding retroactive credits and credits granted by examination.
- Total Credits. A minimum of 120 degree credits are required for graduation.

DEGREE AUDIT (DARS)

At UW–Madison, a DARS report is used to document a student’s progress toward the completion of their degree. This degree audit identifies the requirements that have already been completed, and also those that remain unsatisfied. A DARS report can offer suggestions about appropriate courses that may be taken to meet specific requirements and can assist in the academic planning process.

Students can access DARS reports through their Student Center in My UW–Madison. Go to the Academics tab and find DARS on the dropdown menu.

DARS also has a “what-if” function. This feature makes it possible to request a DARS report as if pursuing another program or major on campus. It is an excellent tool if considering a new or additional area of study. School of Education students in a pre-professional classification such as Pre-Elementary (PRE) should request a “what if” DARS report of their professional program of interest.
DARS is not intended to replace student contact with academic advisers. It creates more time in an advising appointment to discuss course options, research opportunities, graduate school, or issues of personal interest or concern to students.

DARS is the document of record, i.e., certifying document of degree completion, for program areas in the School of Education.

**UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

**Requirements Detail**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Degree</td>
<td>To receive a bachelor's degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residency</td>
<td>Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. &quot;In residence&quot; means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. &quot;In residence&quot; credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of Work</td>
<td>Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Students will be able to analyze complex social issues using skills gained through the study of communication, quantitative reasoning, humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, ethnic studies, history and global issues.
2. Students will understand the concept of disability in American society and demonstrate basic knowledge of issues that affect education, rehabilitation, and healthcare services for individuals with chronic illnesses and disabilities.
3. Students will identify basic theories in the field of psychology and recognize the importance of theoretical foundations in psychology for the study of rehabilitation, disability, and health.
4. Students will successfully engage with the healthcare and rehabilitation services professional community to develop knowledge of the health and human services delivery systems, and pre-professional skills in communication, teamwork, problem solving, and ethical issues.
5. Students will be prepared for graduate study in a variety of health and human service fields related to disability and rehabilitation, or for entry-level positions in a variety of disability and related human services agencies.

**ADVISING AND CAREERS**

**REHABILITATION PSYCHOLOGY ADVISING**

Students not yet admitted to rehabilitation psychology meet with their assigned advisor in Education Academic Services (EAS) and/or the Office of Undergraduate Recruitment and Retention (OURR), see below. Students are assigned an additional departmental advisor when admitted to the professional component of their degree programs.

For general information about the program and degree requirements, contact Virginia Waddick, RP & SE Student Services Coordinator, vtwaddick@education.wisc.edu, 608-263-4608.

**GENERAL SCHOOL OF EDUCATION ADVISING**

All undergraduate students in the School of Education are served by three offices devoted to academic and/or career advising. Each student in the School of Education is assigned at least one advisor and is encouraged to meet with the advisor on a regular basis. Students will also be assigned a faculty or staff advisor when admitted to the professional component of their degree program. Departmental advisors provide more in-depth knowledge of the major and of courses offered by the department.

**UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING AND ACADEMIC DEAN'S OFFICE—EDUCATION ACADEMIC SERVICES (EAS)**

139 Education Building, 1000 Bascom Mall; 608-262-1651  
www.education.wisc.edu/soe/academics/undergraduate-students/academic-advising  
(http://www.education.wisc.edu/soe/academics/undergraduate-students/academic-advising)

Education Academic Services (EAS) is the undergraduate dean’s office for students in the School of Education. Staff members interpret school regulations, policies, and program requirements; take exceptions around requirements and deadlines; advise current and prospective students; monitor students having academic difficulties; coordinate field placements; facilitate the program admissions process; and maintain the official files of students in the school.

Students should meet with an advisor during their first semester on campus (if not before) and are encouraged to meet with an advisor at least once a semester. This is particularly important during the freshman and sophomore years. Appointments may be arranged by calling or visiting the office.

EAS advisors answer questions and provide guidance to current and prospective students. They consult with and refer students to faculty members and departmental advisors. Once a student is admitted to a professional program within the School of Education, he or she will also be assigned a faculty or staff advisor. Advising then becomes a partnership, with EAS and OURR advisors continuing to help students with course selection, degree progress monitoring, academic difficulties, and interpretation of policies and procedures.

Program advisors help students select and plan a program of study in the major, negotiate issues within the department, and, in the case of certification programs, follow the students’ progress through their professional courses. These divisions are flexible, and students are encouraged to consult with all advisors who can help with a situation or answer a question.
The UW–Madison School of Education is committed to promoting equity and increasing diversity in its programs. OURR staff work collaboratively with Education Academic Services and campus and community partners to support underrepresented students interested in majors in the School of Education.

OURR staff perform outreach, recruitment, and advising on behalf of the School. OURR staff also support current students with their personal and professional growth, their transition from high school to college, financial aid, and career exploration.

OURR works to build a network of students and graduates who may strengthen, transform, and lead their communities through education, service, and other contributions. Students are invited to visit OURR staff at 105 Education Building—stop in, or call one of the numbers listed above to set up an appointment.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION CAREER CENTER
L107 Education Building, 1000 Bascom Mall, 608-262-1755
http://careercenter.education.wisc.edu/

Need assistance with any of the following?

- Exploring career options linked to School of Education majors
- Seeking a major that incorporates individual passions, interests, and values that will help one reach specific career goals
- Researching graduate schools and preparing application materials
- Beginning a job search and learning where to start and what to do
- Seeking assistance with developing a résumé, a cover letter, or interviewing skills
- Networking and connecting with potential employers

The Career Center provides resources and individual consultations to assist students in reaching their career goals. A plethora of resources can be found on the Career Center website (http://careercenter.education.wisc.edu):

- Explore career possibilities for specific majors in Investigate Career Options. This section of the website provides tools for clarifying a student’s personal criteria for success, linking specific career options to majors, and identifying steps for career/major selection. It includes strategies for making the most of a student’s academic and student experience.
- Confirm major and career decisions. Gain hands-on experience in the career field of study. Assess the perceptions of selected career and major options for accuracy. Develop professional and soft skills. The Test Drive and Confirm Career Choice section provides strategies for acquiring real-world experience.
- Preparation is critical for entering one’s next career phase. Learn about graduate school requirements and the application process. Develop promotional materials for employers and/or graduate schools and obtain feedback and suggestions for enhancing them. Acquire materials that support one’s applications. The Prepare and Connect section provides offers additional details.
- Implement helps students plan for the future. Attend recruiting events. Apply for graduate school or for job opportunities. Practice interviewing skills. Interview. Negotiate job and graduate school offers.


Informational workshops and career-related events are conducted each semester. The schedule of these events can be found on the center’s website (http://careercenter.education.wisc.edu/workshops).

The Career Center coordinates teacher recruitment fairs each fall and spring semester and collaborates with career centers across campus to provide campus-wide career fairs at the beginning of each semester.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Students interested in occupational and physical therapy may also want to consult the following resources about graduate programs:

- Center for Pre-Health Advising (https://prehealth.wisc.edu)
- Physical Therapy at UW–Madison (http://www.med.wisc.edu/physical-therapy-program/main/48437)

PEOPLE

Information about faculty, staff, and other contributors to the Department of Rehabilitation Psychology and Special Education can be found on the department’s website. (http://rpse.education.wisc.edu)

RESOURCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Information about scholarships, academic and career advising, study abroad opportunities, student diversity services, and other resources for students in the School of Education can be found on the school’s Resources (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/#resourcetext) page.