The Ph.D. program in rehabilitation counselor education prepares graduates to serve as university professors in rehabilitation counseling and closely related academic programs. The program is a leader in preparing Ph.D. professionals who go on to serve in teaching, research, and program administration at universities throughout the US and internationally.

Through a rigorous program combining scholarly inquiry with opportunities for university level teaching practice and applied internship practice, students gain outstanding research, leadership and professional skills. Employment opportunities following graduation include public and private educational, rehabilitation, and mental health agencies, colleges and universities, and research settings. Further evidence of the quality and recognition of the graduate programs at the University of Wisconsin–Madison is provided by the current number one ranking of the rehabilitation counseling program by U.S. News & World Report.

Faculty members work closely with doctoral students on research projects including the PROMISE grant, several Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers, and technical assistance projects focused on promoting evidence-based practices in vocational rehabilitation and program evaluation. In addition, faculty routinely involve students in a full array of professional activities. These may include serving as editors or editorial board members for journals, preparing materials for litigation involving civil rights violations of persons with disabilities, preparing research and training grant applications, preparing training materials, and involvement in clinical cases.

Financial support is available to qualified graduate students and may include scholarships, traineeships, teaching assistantships, and research/project assistantships.