

# 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 (<http://rpse.education.wisc.edu/>) to view the program handbook (<https://rpse.education.wisc.edu/current-students/forms/>), learn more about internship opportunities and guidelines, and what current students have to say (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PL9F9013685146C73A&v=Zu0u1MOjvB4&feature=youtu.be>) 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 is made prior to enrollment for the following semester.

### 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 the School of Education Student Services office, 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 advisor in the School of Education Student Services office 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 advisor in the School of Education Student Services office 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 information is available here (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/#policiesandregulationstext>).

## APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

### ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION TO THE PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

Requirements and selection criteria may be modified from one application/admission period to the next. Potential applicants should consult the School of Education's Undergraduate Admissions (<http://www.education.wisc.edu/soe/academics/undergraduate-students/academic-program-admission/>) page for application deadlines and detailed information regarding current eligibility requirements and selection criteria prior to submitting an application.

#### 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.<sup>1</sup>
- submit all program application form(s), transcripts, and other related application materials by the application deadline specified on the School of Education's Undergraduate Admissions (<http://www.education.wisc.edu/soe/academics/undergraduate-students/academic-program-admission/>) page.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

#### Last 60 Credits Rule

Two grade point averages will be calculated to determine candidates' eligibility to the program. GPAs will be calculated using

- all transferable college level coursework attempted, and
- the last 60 credits attempted.

The higher GPA of these two will be used for purposes of determining eligibility. If fewer than 60 credits have been attempted, all credits will be used to calculate the GPA. Graded graduate coursework will also be used in all GPA calculations. ("Attempted" coursework indicates coursework for which a grade has been earned.) More information on this rule is available here (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/#policiesandregulationstext>).

## 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 the School of Education Student Services office 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. 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 the School of Education Student Services office.

## 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/#requirementsforundergraduatestudytext>) section of the *Guide*.

- General Education
- Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
  - Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
  - Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits
  - Communication Part A & Part B \*
  - Ethnic Studies \*
  - Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B \*

\* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

- 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/#requirements>) to total **40 Credits**.

## PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree program in Rehabilitation Psychology has four components:

- *Liberal studies* courses expose students to a broad range of academic disciplines. The university-wide *General Education* requirements also encourage this breadth of study.
- *Related coursework* comes from departments related to Rehabilitation Psychology—Psychology, Educational Psychology, Sociology, Social Work, and Educational Policy Studies.
- *Rehabilitation Psychology* coursework offers an in-depth study of Rehabilitation Psychology, including multiple opportunities for supervised field work. In addition, at least 6 credits of electives in Rehabilitation Psychology are required, giving students some flexibility to tailor the program to their specific interests.
- *Elective* coursework is taken to meet the minimum of 120 credits required for the degree.

## RELATED COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### PSYCHOLOGY/EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

Complete 18 credits selected from Educational Psychology ([http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/ed\\_psych/](http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/ed_psych/)) and/or Psychology (<http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/psych/>) to include PSYCH 405 Abnormal Psychology.

### SOCIOLOGY/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/](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/](http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/ed_pol/)).

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Recommended Courses</b>		
ED POL 300	School and Society	3
ED POL 460	Immigration, Education, and Equity	3
ED POL 500	Topics on Social Issues and Education	3

## SCHOOL OF EDUCATION LIBERAL STUDIES REQUIREMENTS

All students are required to complete a minimum of 40 credits of Liberal Studies (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/#requirements>) coursework. This requirement provides an opportunity to do some academic exploration beyond the scope of the major. Students take courses in areas of particular interest and also have an opportunity to sample the wide selection of courses offered across the university. Coursework is required in humanities, social studies, science, and cultural and historical studies. Some elective coursework is also needed to reach the required number of credits.

**The School of Education's Liberal Studies Requirements automatically satisfy most of the University General Education Requirements outlined above, including ethnic studies, humanities/literature, social studies, and science.** Students pursuing most School of Education degree programs may also complete Communication Part B, Quantitative Reasoning Part A, and Quantitative Reasoning Part B through courses required by their degree program. If a student cannot complete a General Education Requirement within the curriculum of their chosen School of Education program, academic advisors can offer suggestions for courses that meet the requirement and augment the student's primary area of study.

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/#requirements>) 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 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

ED POL/ Anthropology and Education 3  
 ANTHRO 570

## REHABILITATION PSYCHOLOGY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### DIDACTIC CORE

Complete the following 18 credits:

Code	Title	Credits
RP & SE 300	Individuals with Disabilities	3
RP & SE 316	Health Promotion for Individuals with Disability and Chronic Illness	3
RP & SE 500	Rehabilitation-Counseling Psychology: Foundations	3
RP & SE 501	Rehabilitation-Counseling Psychology: Applications	3
RP & SE 505	Biological, Psychosocial, and Vocational Aspects of Disabilities	3
COUN PSY 650 or COUN PSY 655	Theory and Practice in Interviewing or Clinical Communication Skills	3

### 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:

Code	Title	Credits
RP & SE 121	Disability and Substance Abuse	3
RP & SE 125	Health and Rehabilitation Professions	3
RP & SE 310	Positive Psychology and Well Being	3
RP & SE 325	Self Management of Chronic Illness and Disability	3
RP & SE 335	Introduction to Sport Psychology	3
RP & SE 330	Behavior Analysis: Applications to Persons with Disabilities	3
RP & SE 401	Augmentative and Alternative Communication and Assistive Technology for Students with Disabilities	1
RP & SE 402	Methods in Teaching Functional Skills	1
RP & SE 405	Current Topics in Special Education	1
RP & SE 520	Case Management and Community Resources	3
RP & SE 660	Special Topics (Forensic Rehab topic only)	3

### ELECTIVE COURSEWORK

Complete additional coursework to reach the minimum of 120 credits.

## GPA AND OTHER 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)

UW–Madison uses “DARS” to document a student’s progress toward the completion of their degree, including any additional majors and certificates. A DARS (Degree Audit Reporting System) report shows all the requirements for completing a degree and, against courses that are planned or completed, shows the requirements that have been met, and those that are unmet. A report can offer suggestions about courses that may be taken to meet specific requirements and can assist in the academic planning and enrollment process. Students can access a DARS report in the Course Search & Enroll app or Student Center via My UW.

DARS also has a “what-if” function. This feature makes it possible to request a DARS report as if pursuing another program, major or certificate. 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), or Pre-Kinesiology should request a “what if” DARS report of their professional program of interest.

More information on how to request a DARS report is available on the registrar’s website (<https://registrar.wisc.edu/dars-student/>).

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 used as the document of record for degree program, major and certificate completion in the School of Education.

### UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

**Total Degree** 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.

<b>Residency</b>	Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. "In residence" means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.
<b>Quality of Work</b>	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.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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.

## FOUR-YEAR PLAN

### Rehabilitation Psychology: Sample Four-Year Plan

This four-year sample graduation plan is designed to guide your course selection throughout your academic career; it does not establish a contractual agreement. Use it along with your DARS report, the Guide, and the Course Search and Enroll app to create a four-year plan reflecting your placement scores, incoming credits, and individual interests. You will likely revise your plan several times during your academic career here, based on your activities and changing academic interests. Consult with an academic advisor to develop a personalized plan of study and refer to the Guide for a complete list of requirements.

#### Freshman

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Communication A (fall or spring semester)	3	Communication A (fall or spring semester)	3
RP & SE 300	3	Ethnic Studies	3
Sociology or Social Work course	3	Quantitative Reasoning A	3
Liberal Studies course work	6	PSYCH 202	3-4

Liberal Studies course work	3-6
<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>

#### Sophomore

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Sociology or Social Work course	3	PSYCH 405	3
Educational Psychology or Psychology course	3	Educational Psychology or Psychology course	3
Quantitative Reasoning B	3	Liberal studies course work	9
Liberal Studies course work	6		
<b>15</b>			<b>15</b>

#### Junior

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
RP & SE 500	3	RP & SE 316	3
COUN PSY 650 or 655	3	RP & SE Elective	3
Educational Policy Studies course	3	Sociology or Social Work course	3
Liberal Studies or General Elective course work	6	Liberal Studies or General Elective course work	6
<b>15</b>			<b>15</b>

#### Senior

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
RP & SE 501	3	RP & SE 630	3
RP & SE 505	3	RP & SE Elective	3
RP & SE 630	3	Educational Psychology or Psychology course	3
Educational Psychology or Psychology course	3	Liberal Studies or General Elective course work	6
Liberal Studies or General Elective course work	3		
<b>15</b>			<b>15</b>

**Total Credits 120**

## ADVISING AND CAREERS

### REHABILITATION PSYCHOLOGY ADVISING

Students not yet admitted to Rehabilitation Psychology meet with their assigned advisor in the School of Education Student Services office, Room 139 Education Building, 1000 Bascom Mall, see below. Students are assigned an additional departmental advisor when admitted to the professional component of their degree program. For general information about the program and degree requirements contact Kayla Armstrong, RP & SE Student Services Coordinator, at [armstrongalf@wisc.edu](mailto:armstrongalf@wisc.edu).

### GENERAL SCHOOL OF EDUCATION ADVISING

Dedicated to supporting and promoting student success, the School of Education Student Services (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/>)

education/#resourcestext) office coordinates a number of student-related services for prospective and current School of Education students in all programs. Student Services staff offer support in academic advising, career advising, mentoring and advocacy for underrepresented and international students, requirements monitoring, interpreting academic policy, and more. Students in the School of Education are encouraged to make Student Services a vital part of their academic and employment journey.

**To schedule an appointment:** Call 608-262-2651, email [soeacademicservices@education.wisc.edu](mailto:soeacademicservices@education.wisc.edu), or stop by 139 Education Building when the office reopens. Current students can schedule an appointment online through the Starfish app (<https://advising.wisc.edu/facstaff/starfish/starfish-student-resources/>) in MyUW.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Students interested in graduate study may also want to consult the following resources:

- Center for Pre-Health Advising (<https://prehealth.wisc.edu/>)
- M.S. in Clinical Rehabilitation Psychology (<https://rpse.education.wisc.edu/academics/graduate-programs/master-of-science-m-s-in-rehabilitation-counseling/>)
- Occupational Therapy at UW-Madison (<https://kinesiology.education.wisc.edu/elotd/>)
- 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 (<https://rpse.education.wisc.edu/fac-staff/>).

## 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/#resourcestext>) page.