

**Department of Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling  
College of Behavioral & Community Sciences University of  
South Florida**

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**Student Handbook  
For Graduate Studies in  
Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling**

**December  
2014**

## PREFACE

This Student Handbook was written to assist students in understanding the requirements for the Master of Arts Degree offered by the Department of Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling. It does not replace the University of South Florida Graduate School Catalog. It is offered only as a supplement to the Catalog with specific information about the Degree offered by the Department of Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling. It is the responsibility of the student to be aware of all degree requirements stipulated in the Graduate Catalog and this Handbook. Students are required to satisfy both University and Departmental requirements in order to graduate.

Advisors, faculty, and staff are available to guide and respond to questions from students. However, students are responsible for complying with University and program regulations in a timely manner. If graduation requirements are not satisfied, the degree will not be granted (USF Graduate Catalog, 2014/2015). Students must meet graduation requirements in effect during the time of their program. Questions or comments on the content of this Handbook can be sent to the Graduate Assistant Office at [bcs-rehgrad@usf.edu](mailto:bcs-rehgrad@usf.edu).

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## I. Faculty and Staff

Christina J. Dillahunt, Ph.D., CRC, CVE	Assistant Professor
Gary Dudell, PhD., CRC, CAP, LMHC	Clinical Instructor
William G. Emener, Ph.D.	Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus
Ryan G. Henry, Ph.D., LMFT	Instructor
William D. Kearns, Ph.D.	Research Associate Professor
Susan D. M. Kelley, Ph.D., CRC, LMHC	Associate Professor Emeritus
Barbara LoFrisco, Ph.D., LMHC, LMFT	Visiting Instructor
Lisa Ottomanelli, Ph.D.	Courtesy Associate Professor
Calvin Pinkard, Ph.D.	Associate Professor Emeritus
John D. Rasch, Ph.D., CRC	Professor Emeritus
Tammy Jorgensen Smith, Ph.D., CRC	Assistant Professor
Marilyn Stern, Ph.D.	Professor
Richard B. Weinberg, Ph.D., ABPP	Clinical Associate Professor
Tennyson J. Wright, Ph.D., CRC	Chair & Associate Professor
Paula MacGeorge	Academic Program Specialist

## II. Adjunct Faculty

John Bosworth, M.A., LMHC	Adjunct Instructor
M. Theodora Carroll, Ph.D., CRC, LMHC	Adjunct Instructor
Robynanne Cash-Howard, M.A., CRC	Adjunct Instructor
Michael Dow, Ph.D.	Adjunct Associate Professor
Paula Fenzau, Ph.D.	Adjunct Instructor
Katurah Jenkins-Hall, Ph.D.	Adjunct Associate Professor
Aaron Norton, LMHC, CAP, CRC	Adjunct Instructor
Randy K. Otto, Ph.D.	Adjunct Associate Professor
Joan Reid, Ph.D., LMHC, CRC	Adjunct Instructor
Dae C. Sheridan, Ph.D., LMHC, CRC	Adjunct Instructor
Larry Thompson, Ph.D.	Adjunct Associate Professor

### III. Background Information

**A. Introduction:** Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling is offered at approximately 100 universities in the United States at the master's degree level. The discipline is both a separate allied health profession and specialty within the field of counseling. Graduates work in many different human service settings, including state and federal rehabilitation programs, not-for-profit rehabilitation organizations, private for-profit rehabilitation companies, mental health centers, drug and alcohol treatment programs, and public and private counseling agencies. The discipline emphasizes training in vocational, educational, psychological, social, and medical aspects of disability; interpersonal counseling, addictions and substance abuse counseling, wellness, mental health and case management.

**B. Department Mission and Objectives:** The mission of the Department of Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling is to promote quality services for individuals with differences in abilities and to help the state meet its human service needs in the areas of rehabilitation and mental health through teaching, research, and service. The objectives of the Department are:

1. To provide students with a sound knowledge of the basic philosophical tenets and relevant historical foundations of rehabilitation and mental health counseling; and to prepare master's level rehabilitation and mental health counselors who adhere to ethical principles, including the belief in human dignity and the right of all individuals to fully participate in society.
2. To prepare masters level rehabilitation mental health counselors to be critical consumers of information and to encourage their participation in, and contribution to, the expansion of knowledge in the fields of rehabilitation and mental health counseling.
3. To encourage the professional growth and development of master's level rehabilitation and mental health counselors through the promotion of ongoing involvement in the rehabilitation community at the local, state, and national levels, and to promote advocacy on behalf of people with differences in abilities.

**B. University of South Florida:** USF is committed to promoting globally-competitive undergraduate, graduate and professional programs that support interdisciplinary inquiry, intellectual development and skill acquisition. Every department and administrative unit at the university – from the cashier's office and physical plant, to academic departments and residence life – is committed to student success. Through a series of programs and initiatives, the university strives to create a positive teaching and learning environment designed to engage students and enrich all aspects of the student experience.

USF's academic programs are designed to meet the needs of all learners, including traditional learners, special needs learners, adults interested in advancing their careers, veterans and distance learners. The University offers 89 undergraduate majors and 139 degree programs at the graduate, specialist and doctoral levels, including the doctor of medicine. Undergraduates

are strongly encouraged to take advantage of a wide range of undergraduate research opportunities and study abroad programs.

The University has 13 colleges falling under the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. From Medicine and The Arts to Marine Science and Business, each of the colleges offers an extensive range of degree and specialty programs, many allowing students to focus on a particular discipline while exploring other areas of interest across the university.

The University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The master's degree program in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling is accredited by the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) through Summer 2016. The Department is a member of the College of Behavioral & Community Sciences and is located in MHC 1600.

The Board of Regents approved the master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling in 1972. Since then, the Department has graduated over 1,300 rehabilitation and mental health counselors. The program of study is 60 semester hours, which includes classroom as well as clinical field experiences. Graduates are eligible to take the national certification examination in rehabilitation counseling through the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification. In addition, graduates are eligible to apply for licensure in mental health counseling with the State of Florida, Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage & Family Therapy and Mental Health Counseling.

## **IV. General Degree Information**

- A. Admissions Process:** New students are admitted Fall and Spring semesters, and the deadlines for completed applications are February 15th and October 15th, respectively. Prospective students should access the USF Graduate Catalog online, as this publication has important information about admission to the Graduate School and other requirements. Prospective students must submit an online application to the Graduate School indicating Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling as the selected program of study; send official transcripts and Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores to USF; complete the electronic Departmental Application form, with Statement of Purpose (available at <http://rmhc.cbcs.usf.edu/>); and provide the Department with three letters of reference. These letters should be from former professors, professionals in the human services field, or other individuals who can attest to the student's character and potential for successful completion of graduate studies. An individual interview is also required.

The minimum requirement is a 3.0 GPA for the last 60 semester hours of course work. Admissions are extremely competitive, and meeting minimum Graduate School admission standards does not guarantee acceptance into the master's program

in Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling. Prospective students **must** report GRE scores to USF regardless of GPA.

**B. Registration for Courses Prior to Acceptance into the M.A. Program:** Prospective students may take up to 12 credit hours in non-degree seeking status with the permission of the Department. Students will not be allowed to register for MHS 5020 Foundations of Mental Health Counseling, RCS 6803 Practicums I & II, and RCS 6825 Internship until they have been admitted to the program. Upon acceptance into the program, students may request that credit hours be transferred into the degree program. Non-degree seeking or special student registration takes place after degree seeking student registration and continues through the first week of classes (drop/add period), while seats remain available. The Graduate School strictly enforces the 12 hour limit, and additional hours in non-degree seeking status will not be accepted toward the master's degree. Prospective students may take up to 12 hours in non-degree seeking status; however, completion and performance may not be a factor in admission decisions. All applicants must meet the Graduate School and departmental criteria for the GRE and undergraduate GPA.

**C. Transfer Credit:** The Graduate School will accept coursework constituting up to 40% of the USF Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling Program at the discretion of the Chair and the Department. Transfer credits must be from a program accredited by the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) or the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). These credits may not have been earned prior to receiving a degree. Students must petition to have transfer credits accepted into their graduate program, and students are responsible for providing a syllabus for coursework to be considered. <http://rmhc.cbcs.usf.edu/resourcesLinks/outsideCourseForm.cfm> All coursework to be transferred must have a grade of B or better. Field placement coursework will not be accepted for transfer under any circumstances.

**D. Post Baccalaureate and Five-Year Program: UNDER ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW – NO APPLICATIONS CURRENTLY ACCEPTED.**

Most students are admitted into the M.A. degree program in Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling after completing a bachelor's degree in one of the social or behavioral sciences or related disciplines. However, no specific undergraduate major is required, and students are accepted with undergraduate degrees in areas as diverse as psychology, education, business, and nursing. Upon admission, students are assigned an REH classification by the Graduate School.



**NOTE: The Department has a five-year program, which is currently under administrative review. No students are being considered at this time.** Students have a REF classification with the Graduate School. Criteria for admission are identical to that of the master's degree program. Graduation from the five-year program requires completion of an undergraduate degree, and completion of all required Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling courses. Courses taken for one degree will not count toward the other. The Department will, in accordance with Graduate School guidelines, accept up to six (6) semester hours in advisor-approved 4000 level courses. Undergraduates interested in the five-year program should contact the Department and take the GRE during their junior year. Students in the five-year program will not receive the bachelor's degree until they have completed the requirements for both the bachelor's and master's degrees. Students who have been denied admission to a USF Graduate Program are ineligible for this option.

**E. GPA Requirements and Probation:** All graduate students are required to maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA and earn a "B" or better in each graduate course. A GPA of less than 3.0 will result in probationary status. The Graduate School requires a written plan to remove the student from probation. Students on probation must attain a minimum 3.0 GPA by the end of the following semester to avoid continuing probation. Additional information regarding probation is available at <http://www.grad.usf.edu/inc/linked-files/Probation%20Tutorial.pdf>. If a student remains on probation after two semesters, the department may recommend:

1. That the student withdraws from the program;
2. That the Graduate School dismiss the student from the program; or
3. The Graduate School may dismiss the student from the program.

**F. Academic Performance:** Effective September 12, 2007, the following courses require a grade of "B" or better to be accepted toward a student's program of study: RCS 5020-Foundations of Mental Health Counseling, and RCS6803-Practicums I & II.

Failure to achieve a grade of "B" will require the student to repeat the course and earn a "C" or better. No grade forgiveness applies at the graduate level and all grades will appear on the student's transcript. In such cases, a student may not substitute the course with one taken at another university or via an on-line program.

Any student who has earned less than a "C" in a course and/or has been notified of continued poor academic performance (missed assignments, excessive absences and/or "I" grades) will be referred to their program academic advisor. Poor academic

performance may result in a written notice followed by recommendation for withdrawal or dismissal.

### G. USF Graduate Catalog 2014-15 – Section 7 Academic Policies & Regulations

More detail on the items below can be found at the following link:

<http://www.grad.usf.edu/catalog.php>

- Academic Policy Information
- Student Responsibilities
- Student Conduct
  - The department expects all students to conduct themselves in a professional manner, which includes appropriate attire in the classroom and at the field placement site, punctuality, and the like.
- Academic Integrity of Students
- Disruption of Academic Process
- Student Academic Grievance Procedure
- Academic Standards and Grades

**H. Advisement:** Students accepted into the graduate program will be assigned an advisor at the start of their first semester. A student should contact their advisor to discuss their educational program and career plans, as necessary. A Student Advisement Record is provided in Appendix B for the purpose of tracking academic program progress.

Routine questions (e.g., course availability, course schedules, prerequisites) can typically be answered by office staff. The main number for the Department is (813) 974-2855, and students with general questions should call this number. Messages for adjunct faculty will be referred by telephone or email. Work telephone numbers and email addresses of the full time faculty and staff are:

Ms. Paula MacGeorge (Academic Program Specialist)	(813) 974-0970	<a href="mailto:pnmacgeorge@usf.edu">pnmacgeorge@usf.edu</a>
Dr. Christina Dillahunt-Aspillaga	(813) 974-1282	<a href="mailto:cdillahuntas@usf.edu">cdillahuntas@usf.edu</a>
Dr. Gary DuDell	(813) 974-1257	<a href="mailto:gdudell@usf.edu">gdudell@usf.edu</a>
Dr. Ryan Henry	(813) 974-0969	<a href="mailto:rghenry@usf.edu">rghenry@usf.edu</a>
Dr. Bill Kearns	(813) 974-9356	<a href="mailto:kearns@usf.edu">kearns@usf.edu</a>
Dr. Barbara LoFrisco	(813) 974-0973	<a href="mailto:lofrisco@usf.edu">lofrisco@usf.edu</a>
Dr. Tammy Jorgensen Smith	(813) 974-7713	<a href="mailto:tjsmith@usf.edu">tjsmith@usf.edu</a>
Dr. Marilyn Stern	(813) 974-0966	<a href="mailto:mstern1@usf.edu">mstern1@usf.edu</a>
Dr. Rick Weinberg	(813) 974-1916	<a href="mailto:weinberg@usf.edu">weinberg@usf.edu</a>
Dr. Tennyson J. Wright (Chair)	(813) 974-2963	<a href="mailto:tjwright@usf.edu">tjwright@usf.edu</a>

- I. Computer Accounts:** All currently registered graduate students are required to obtain USF computer accounts through Information Technologies. To obtain one, go to <https://netid.usf.edu>. There is no separate charge for these accounts.

The Department has an Internet home page which students are encouraged to visit. This page has important information about the program, including downloadable department forms, field placement sites, and information about iLINC, the program student association. The address is <http://rmhc.cbcs.usf.edu/>.

The Departmental maintains a listserv that may be used for academic purposes should a student need something distributed to faculty and students. Requests should be submitted via email to Paula MacGeorge ([pnmacgeorge@usf.edu](mailto:pnmacgeorge@usf.edu)). Requests are subject to approval of the department chair. Submissions should be in text format with pictures/graphics posted as an attachment. Submissions are moderated and may be edited by departmental staff as necessary.

- J. Course Load, Access and Time Limits:** The Department allows students to pursue the master's degree on a full-time or part-time basis, and to register for courses in a manner consistent with their work and/or family obligations and responsibilities. In accordance with the Graduate School policy, all course work must be completed within a five (5) year period. Courses taken seven years before the application for degree, whether completed at USF or as transfer credit, may not be accepted as meeting degree requirements. All graduate degree-seeking students must be continuously enrolled. Continuous enrollment is defined as completing, with grades assigned, a minimum of 6 hours of graduate credit in three contiguous semesters. However, other colleges and programs may enforce additional requirements. Students on an approved leave of absence are not subject to the enrollment requirement for the time approved for the leave. A graduate student who is not registered and enrolled for a minimum of six (6) credits in a 12 month period is automatically placed in non-degree seeking (i.e. inactive) status. Students must be readmitted to the degree program to continue their studies. Readmission is at the discretion of the program and is not guaranteed. Full-time enrollment requires registration for a minimum of nine (9) semester hours during fall and spring, and six (6) semester hours during summer. Students may take up to 15 credit hours per semester; however, enrollment in more than nine (9) credit hours during any one (1) semester is strongly discouraged, and must be approved by the student's advisor and the department chair.

Due to CORE accreditation standards, academic standards and limited resources, course enrollment caps may be implemented by the program. Due to demand by full-time and part-time student registration in any given semester, course access cannot be

guaranteed. While the Department attempts to schedule courses consistent with projected needs, students may occasionally experience delays in accessing one or more courses needed for graduation.

## V. Curriculum

- A. Course requirements:** Courses are typically offered both days and evenings and normally meet once per week in three to four hour blocks. The program is 60 semester hours of which 54 semester hours are required with six (6) hours of electives. For a listing of required courses see the Student Advisement Record in Appendix B. Students who began their program of study before Fall 1998 will find curriculum equivalents and a survival guide in Appendix C.
- B. Electives:** All electives outside the Department must be approved by the student's advisor. An Elective Approval form is available on the Department's website and an electronic copy of the syllabus for the elective course must be submitted with the form. Advisors will review and consider electives related to social, behavioral, education, or health-related studies. The Graduate School will allow up to six (6) hours at the 4000-level with the consent of the Department. However, 4000-level courses may not be acceptable for purposes of financial aid. It is the student's responsibility to consult the Office of Financial Aid to determine if courses meet its requirement. Advisors can approve 4000-level courses if the courses are relevant to the student's degree program.
- C. Independent Study:** Students interested in an independent study must first contact a faculty member and obtain permission to register for RCS 6906 under that faculty member's direction. Independent studies are on an S/U basis and require a signed contract, which can be obtained from the Department's website. All independent studies must be fully completed, with the report(s) submitted no later than one (1) full week before the end of the semester, or earlier at the faculty member's discretion. The independent study option principally exists to assist students in expanding their knowledge and skills including conducting research in areas that build upon existing courses. Independent studies may **NOT** be used to satisfy the required 54 semester hours. No more than eight hours of RCS 6906 will be accepted toward the master's degree. Credit hours for an independent study range from 1 to 4 depending on the contact hours and the extent of the work to be pursued.

## Typical Projects for Independent Study

1. An APA-style term paper of approximately 15 to 25 text pages (exclusive of title, abstract and reference pages) on a current professional topic of interest to the student. The topic should not be general or basic, or one covered by a course in the program or in a course available through another department. The student should identify one or more journals for which the paper would be suitable and contain a cover letter to the editor of one of the journals requesting consideration for publication. Actual submission of the paper is at the discretion of the student and the faculty member.
2. Continuing Education programs available through USF, a professional association, or the community at large. Continuing education programs should be approved for CEUs by one or more State of Florida professional boards (e.g., for mental health counselor licensure maintenance). One semester hour of credit equals 15 hours of classroom instruction, and a student can receive one independent study hour for two full days of training, or for two seven to eight hour programs. All programs must be approved in advance (no previously completed programs will be approved) and a copy of the program announcement must be included with the independent study contract. A final reaction paper must follow completion of each program.
3. Special projects related to the needs of an agency and requested in writing by an appropriate agency official. There must be an onsite supervisor for the project, and the project must be at an agency other than one where the student is employed. Examples of projects include a needs assessment, program evaluation study, or similar activity. All projects must include a final written document.
4. Assisting a permanent Department of Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling faculty member with research or a special project that is individually negotiated.

**D. Field Training Component:** The master's program includes three field placement courses of one semester each. The first two are Practicum I (RCS 6803) and Practicum II (RCS 6803 or RCS 6830) and each requires 14 hours per week (minimum of 200 hours each). The third is the Internship (RCS 6825), which requires 40 hours per week (minimum of 600 hours total) in an approved agency. Students must register for all field placement courses through the Department. The Department must have an approved affiliation agreement with an agency before a student can be placed there and the agency must be able to provide the student with one hour of individual supervision each week, counseling experiences, and the opportunity to obtain audio tapes from consenting clients in Practicum I and II. All sites must be approved in advance by the Clinical Instructor (Dr. Gary DuDell), and a semester notice is required. The Department maintains a list of approved agencies for

field placement as some human service agencies cannot provide the required experiences. Students may review the list on the department website at <http://rmhc.cbcs.usf.edu/>, under FIELD PLACEMENT, View Approved Field Placement Sites. Students must successfully complete RCS 5780 Legal/Ethical Issues and MHS 5020 Foundations of Mental Health Counseling and have earned a grade of “B” or better before registering for field placement courses.

Once the student has identified a site, he/she must confirm the placement with Dr. Dudell via the online form located on the Department website, <http://rmhc.cbcs.usf.edu/> under FIELD PLACEMENT, Field Placement Application. The student must complete a Field Placement Application for each placement, obtain student liability insurance, and electronically submit the application with insurance policy attached to the Department. Once all of these steps are completed, Dr. DuDell will approve the Application and notify the department to provide a permit to register for Practicum I, II or Internship. Students must obtain liability insurance via Health Care Providers Service Organization ( <http://www.hpsso.com>) or other company. Liability insurance is required even if the site is the student’s place of employment and insurance is provided. Students may find it difficult to secure a copy of the employer’s insurance policy since it must be provided to the Department with each field placement application.

Students employed full-time in a human service position may, with Department review and approval, use their place of employment for their internship and/or practicum. If the student’s work site is used for the practicum, the student must be able to obtain counseling tapes for review and critique from that setting. Students should discuss their practicum and internship plans with their advisor. Students may wish to obtain and review a copy of the Department’s *Handbook for Field Supervisors and Agencies* before registering for practicum and internship. All practicum hours must be completed prior to enrolling in Internship.

**E. Certificate Programs:** The Department offers three graduate level certificate programs: Addictions and Substance Abuse Counseling; Integrative Mental Health Care; Marriage and Family Therapy.

**Addictions and Substance Abuse Counseling** is a 15-semester hour certificate program that will afford graduate students and human service professionals who have graduate degrees, with opportunities to acquire specialized knowledge and skills in working with individuals who have addictions and substance abuse problems. The program began in the fall of 1998. Students accepted into the certificate program will be able to complete the program and receive their certificate within 15 months. This interdisciplinary program will utilize key experts in addictions and substance abuse

counseling from academic and research departments within the University of South Florida as well as from the surrounding professional community. Brochures and applications are available in the Department. For further information, please call the Department at (813) 974-2855 or Dr. Theo Carroll, Certificate Director, at (941) 412-3947, or email [theocarroll@usf.edu](mailto:theocarroll@usf.edu)

**Integrative Mental Health Care** is a 16-semester hour certificate program designed to provide students with an in-depth understanding of holistic theory and practices within the counseling process, and holistic perspectives and approaches to wellness. It is designed to familiarize students with integrative healthcare and supports students in developing a capacity to examine lifestyle choices and their impact on health. For further information, please call the Department at (813) 974-2855 or contact Dr. Gary DuDell, Certificate Director, at (813) 974-1257, or email [gdudell@usf.edu](mailto:gdudell@usf.edu).

**Marriage and Family Therapy Certification Program** is a 15-semester hour graduate certificate program designed for persons interested in specializing in Marriage and Family Therapy. To be eligible for licensure with the State of Florida, students must complete the master's degree in Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling and the graduate certificate. For further information, please call the Department at (813) 974-2855 or contact Dr. Ryan Henry, Certificate Director, at (813) 974-0969, or email [rghenry@usf.edu](mailto:rghenry@usf.edu).

## **F. Thesis Programs:**

### **I. General**

All students are initially admitted into the non-thesis M.A. program. However, students can be accepted into the thesis program based upon a vote of the faculty. Students will normally not be transferred back into a non-thesis program should they fail to complete or successfully defend a thesis.

Students must indicate in a letter to the Department Chair a desire to pursue a master's thesis and request permission to form a Committee. The Chair will present

the request to the faculty and upon approval the student may organize a Committee consisting of at least four appropriately credentialed and voting members as follows:

1. A major professor;
2. Two faculty members in the Department of Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling; and
3. One faculty member outside the Department

Upon approval of the major professor(s), a Committee may be larger and have nonvoting members as well. The major professor must be a faculty member in the Department of Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling unless special permission is obtained from the Chair.

## **II. Registration**

Upon approval of the faculty to pursue the thesis, students must begin no later than the next semester registering for two (2) semester hours RCS 6970 (thesis). Students must continue to register for a minimum of two credit hours of thesis each fall and spring semester until completing the thesis defense. If a student fails to register for two credit hours of RCS 6970 during any semester after attaining approval, he/she will be considered to have abandoned the thesis attempt, the Committee will disband, and he/she will need to reapply. Students who plan to complete their thesis and graduate in the summer must also be registered for two credit hours of RCS 6970 during summer semester. Credits cannot be applied toward the non-thesis program, and a minimum of 60 hours are required for the master's degree through the thesis program.

## **III. Committee Meetings**

The student, in collaboration with the major professor(s), must schedule a minimum of two Committee meetings. The first meeting is recommended, but in some cases may be accomplished in separate discussions with committee members.

- Meeting #1. Research Area: (a) review student's program of study; and (b) discuss the proposed research area for the thesis.
- Meeting #2. Prospectus Presentation/Defense – the student must prepare a formal prospectus (research proposal) in collaboration with the Major Professor; copies of the prospectus must be distributed to Committee members a minimum of 10 calendar days prior to the scheduled Presentation/Defense, and at the meeting:
  1. The student will present the prospectus; and,
  2. The Committee will approve, disapprove the proposed study or require revisions to the prospectus before granting approval. Committee Approval of a Prospectus shall be documented in the student's file. Committee Disapproval



shall be documented in the student's file and will include: (1) reasons for non-approval; and, (2) relevant recommendations for the student.

The Prospectus shall include:

1. Background and Rationale for the Study;
  2. Review of Related Literature;
  3. Methodology; and
  4. Other Related Information Relevant to the Proposed Study.
- Meeting #3. Thesis Defense. The student will be responsible for:
    1. Scheduling the Thesis Defense consistent with the Graduate School Calendar Guidelines;
    2. Providing public notice to the University community, and forwarding invitations to:
      - a. faculty in the Department of Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling;
      - b. the Deans in the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences;
      - c. the Dean of the Graduate School; and,
      - d. the Director of Sponsored Research at USF; and,
    3. Distributing copies of the Thesis to the Committee members a minimum of 10 working days prior to the scheduled defense.

Note: Three Committee members must be present at the Defense to constitute a quorum; a majority of the committee members must vote to "Pass" in order for the Thesis to be approved. Upon approval, the thesis must be submitted to the Dean of the Graduate School within the time frames specified in the Academic Calendar of the Graduate Catalog.

Copies of Thesis:

The student is responsible for depositing signed copies of the Committee Approved Thesis:

- a. two with the Graduate School;
- b. one with the Major Professor; and
- c. one with the Department.

#### **IV. Preparation of Theses**

Students must carefully consult the most recent edition of the Handbook of Graduate Theses and Dissertations in preparing theses. This publication may be obtained in the USF Bookstore. Only theses consistent with the guidelines in this publication will be accepted. Theses must also be in APA style and students should obtain a copy of the APA Style Manual (also available in the bookstore).

## V. Graduate Catalog

Thesis students must follow USF Graduate School thesis requirements as well as those outlined in [Departmental Guidelines for the Masters Thesis](#).

**A. Final Comprehensive Examination:** In addition to the required courses and a total of 60 semester hours, all students must pass a final written comprehensive examination. Students are eligible to sit for the examination during the semester in which they will complete all program requirements, with the exception of Internship. Completion of Internship is not a requirement to sit for the examination, which is given in fall and spring semesters. Students are required to submit a signed *Comprehensive Examination: Information & Protocol* form and a *Graduation Certification* form, which are located at <http://rmhc.cbcs.usf.edu/mastersProgram/comps.cfm>, before registering for the examination. Additionally, students must be registered for a minimum of two (2) graduate credit hours at the time they sit for the examination. Students may take the comprehensive examination a total of three times. Students who fail the examination must retake it in the semester immediately following the semester in which they failed it or the next semester that it is offered. Students who fail the examination three times will be recommended for dismissal from the program. In keeping with the Graduate School policy, students must enroll in two credit hours in the semester in which they retake the examination. The M.A. degree will not be awarded until the student has passed the examination. In preparation for the examination, students are strongly encouraged to retain their course textbooks and notes from all courses.

**B. Graduation:** Students must apply for graduation at the start of the semester in which they will complete all requirements for the degree. The application is very important, and some students have found their graduation delayed a semester because they did not apply for their degree by the University deadline. Students are strongly encouraged to review the USF Graduate Catalog regarding graduation application deadlines.

## VI. General Information

**A. First Day Class Attendance:** First day class attendance is mandatory for all students. At the discretion of the instructor, poor attendance may result in a letter grade penalty.

**B. Confidentiality and Ethics:** Students are expected to maintain the highest level of ethical standards in accordance with the Code of Ethics of the Commission on

Rehabilitation Counselor Certification. Students are obligated to keep information of a personal nature that they may hear in interpersonal courses and practica confidential. Audio tapes obtained during practica and internship must be erased after they are reviewed and critiqued. Confidentiality and other ethical standards will be addressed in practica and internship. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and may result in discipline including suspension or dismissal from the program.

**C. Licensure:** Students who desire to be licensed after graduation can find information about time requirements, examination schedules, and costs by reading Appendix A. Further information may also be obtained by visiting the state of Florida's website at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/491/>.

**D. Financial Aid:** The Department supports two to four students with graduate assistantships each semester. These assistantships generally require 10-20 hours of work per week. Additional information about financial aid and student loans can be obtained by contacting: Office of Financial Aid, SVC 1102, University of South Florida, 4202 East Fowler Avenue, Tampa, Florida, 33620-8100 or by telephoning (813) 974-4700.

## VII. APPENDICES

### Appendix A – Certification, Licensure, and Affiliation

- i. Mental Health Counselor Licensure:** Many students in the Department are interested in obtaining a license as a mental health counselor with the State of Florida. Two years of appropriate and supervised post masters work experience and passing a state examination are required for licensure under Florida statute. Licensure is required for independent practice. Students should retain all course syllabi, as these may be required by the Florida Board.; the Department will not be responsible for providing them. Licensure packages are available online at <http://floridasmentalhealthprofessions.gov/>.
- ii. Rehabilitation Counselor Certification:** The Department is accredited by the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE). Graduates of the program are eligible to sit for Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) national examination. Students may apply for the examination with the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification. Due to advanced application deadlines, students may apply for the examination after completing 75% of their course work. After passing the examination and completing the M.A. degree, the CRC designation will be awarded. The CRC is an important credential in many agencies such as the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and facility settings such as those accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). <http://www.crccertification.com/>
- iii. National Board of Certified Counselors:** This organization offers the National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certification (NCE) and the National Certified Counselor (NCC) credential. At the time of this writing 33 states, including Florida, have adopted this examination as part of their credentialing process.

#### **National Board of Certified Counselors**

<http://www.nbcc.org/>

- iv. Professional Associations:** It is strongly recommended that students join one or more professional associations in the counseling field. Membership in the associations is of critical importance to the profession at large, and has many important individual benefits including professional journals, professional meetings, in-service training information, newsletters on current developments in the profession, malpractice and other forms of insurance. The major professional associations in the field are the American Counseling Association (ACA) and National Rehabilitation

Association (NRA). Both organizations have divisions for rehabilitation counselors. The American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA) is a division of ACA, and the National Rehabilitation Counseling Association (NRCA) is a division of NRA. Applications and additional information may be obtained from their respective websites:

**American Association for Marriage & Family Therapy**

<http://www.aamft.org>

**American Counseling Association**

<http://www.counseling.org/>

**American Family Therapy Academy**

<http://www.afta.org>

**Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage & Family Therapy and Mental Health Counseling**

<http://floridasmentalhealthprofessions.gov/>

**International Family Therapy Association**

<http://www.ifta-familytherapy.org/>

**National Rehabilitation Association**

<http://www.nationalrehab.org/>

## Appendix B – Student Advisement Record

Name \_\_\_\_\_ UID \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date Entered Program \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Course Work:</b> 54 required hrs. 6 Electives	<b>FALL</b>	<b>SPR</b>	<b>SUM</b>	<b>FALL</b>	<b>SPR</b>	<b>SUM</b>	<b>FALL</b>	<b>SPR</b>	<b>SUM</b>
Concepts & Applications									
Foundations of Mental Health Counseling									
Medical Aspects									
Human Growth & Develop									
Substance Abuse I									
Legal, Ethical & Professional Issues									
Individual Evaluation & Assessment									
Career & Life Style Assessment									
Counseling Theories									
Psychopathology									
Practicum- <u>take twice</u>									
Social & Cultural Foundations									
Group Theories & Practice									
Human Sexuality									
Counseling in Community Settings									
Internship									
Electives (Two)									

## Appendix C – Graduation and Licensure Requirements

Course Requirements	Graduation Requirements for Students Admitted Fall, 1998 and forward, also for Licensure after 12/31/2000	Graduation for Students Admitted Before Fall, 1998
RCS 5035 Concepts & Applications (Formerly RCS 5700) The Incorrectly listed in 1998- old 99 catalog as RCS 5060) 5035.	Required for Graduation but not licensure	Yes, unless RCS 5700 was taken before Fall, 1998.  course number for the  RCS 5700 is now RCS
RCS 5080 Medical Aspects	Required for Graduation but not for licensure	Yes
MHS 5020 Foundations of Mental Health Counseling (Formerly RCS 5404)	Both	Yes
MHS 5480 Human Growth & Development (Formerly RCS 5406)	Both	Yes
RCS 5450 Substance Abuse I	Both	No
RCS 5780 who did not Legal, Ethical, Prof. Standards before the Fall & Issues in Counseling needs (Formerly RCS 5700)	Both  Both	No, but everyone  take RCS 5700  Semester of 1998 now  this for licensure
RCS 6220 Individual Eval. & Assessment	Both	Yes
RCS 6301 Career & Lifestyle Assessment (Formerly RCS 6300)	Both	Yes
RCS 6407 Counseling Theories	Both	Yes

<b>Course Requirement</b>	<b>Graduation Requirements for Students Admitted Fall, 1998 and forward, also for Licensure after 12/31/2000</b>	<b>Graduation for Students Admitted Before Fall, 1998</b>
RCS 6408 Diagnosis & Treatment of Psychopathology Incorrectly listed in 1998-99 catalog as RCS 6409 and S/U	Both	Yes
RCS 6409 Seminar Counseling in Community Settings	Both	No
RCS 6455 Practicum	No	No
RCS 6459 Substance Abuse II	No	No
RCS 6470 Social & Cultural Foundations of Counseling	Both	Yes
RCS 6476 Seminar Human Sexuality	Both	No
RCS 6510 Group Theories & Practice	Both	No
RCS 6740 Research & Program Evaluation	Both	Yes
RCS 6803 Practicum (Formerly RCS 6455 and previously RCS 5802)	Both, 2 Practicums of 200 field hours each. Course to be taken twice.	Yes, 1 Practicum of 120 field hours
RCS 6825 Internship	Both 600 hours	Yes 600 hours
RCS 6930 Seminar Variable Topics	No	No

\*A total of 60 semester hours is required for graduation under all USF catalogs.



## Appendix D – Curriculum Transition Survival Guide

For Students Admitted Before the Fall of 1998. This survival guide is **NOT** for students admitted from the Fall Semester of 1998 or later. Review program requirements in the Student Handbook and current USF Graduate Catalog.

Because of changes in Florida's licensure law, it was necessary to change titles and readjust the content of almost every course in USF's Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling Program.

### **Remember This:**

You need 60 semester hours to graduate!

These are the courses you needed before the change and their current course equivalents. If you did not take the old course, you must now take its replacement.

Foundations & Ethics (RCS 5700) is now Rehabilitation Counseling: Concepts & Applications (RCS 5035).

Medical Aspects of Disability (RCS 5080) is still Medical Aspects of Disability (RCS 5080).

Psychosocial & Multicultural Aspects of Disability (RCS 6470) is now Social and Cultural Foundations (RCS 6440).

Interpersonal Counseling I: Personality Theories (RCS 5404) is now Foundations of Mental Health Counseling (MHS 5020).

Interpersonal Counseling II: Counseling Theories (RCS 6407) is now Counseling Theories and Practice (RCS 6407).

Seminar in Human Development (RCS 5406) is now Human Growth and Development (MHS 5480).

Seminar in Psychopathology for Mental Health and Rehabilitation Counselors (RCS 6409) is now Diagnosis and Treatment of Psychopathology (RCS 6408).

Individual Evaluation and Assessment (RCS 6220) is still Individual Evaluation and Assessment (RCS 6220).

Placement Methods and Career Counseling (RCS 6300) is now Career and Lifestyle Assessment (RCS 6301).

Research in Rehabilitation (RCS 6740) is now Research and Program Evaluation (RCS 6740).

Practicum I (RCS 6455/RCS 5802) is now Practicum in Counseling (RCS 6803).

Internship in Rehabilitation (RCS 6825) is now Internship (RCS 6825).

**When you have taken all of the above courses, old or new, plus Department approved electives bringing you to 60 semester hours you can graduate!**

These program electives are required for State licensure as a Mental Health Counselor:

Human Sexuality (RCS 6476).

Group Theories and Practice (RCS 6510).

Legal, Ethical and Professional Standards (RCS 5780). This course is necessary for a license unless the old course entitled "Foundations and Ethics" appears on your transcript.

### **The Following is Recommended:**

After December 31, 2000 the licensure law in Florida became far more stringent. In some states you will need the courses Substance Abuse, (RCS 5450) and Seminar in Rehabilitation Counseling: Counseling in Community Settings (RCS 6930) to obtain a license. It is recommended that you take both as electives now.

It is also advisable to graduate with 1,000 field hours in your Masters Program. If you have already taken a practicum, you have 120 hours. Internship will add another 600 hours bringing your total to 720. Practicum in Counseling (RCS 6803) may be taken and repeated if you wish to obtain the remaining hours needed to total 1,000.

## Appendix E – Biographical Sketches of the Professional Staff

**John J. Bosworth, M.A.**, is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor in private practice ([www.bozcounseling.com](http://www.bozcounseling.com)) and a member of the adjunct faculty of the Department of Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling at the University of South Florida, Tampa. There, he also serves as a member of the External Advisory Committee providing on-going consultation between academic endeavors and requirements and the practical application of student resources toward careers and employment in private settings. He was trained indepthly in Rational-Emotive Behavior Therapy at the former Albert Ellis Institute and The Rational Living Foundation in Tampa. His areas of specialization in private practice include anxiety, depression, substance abuse, family and adolescent issues, and stress and pain management (he also is a member of the staff at Gulf Coast Pain Management in Palm Harbor, Florida – [www.gulfcoastpain.com](http://www.gulfcoastpain.com)).

**M. Theodora Carroll, Ph.D., CRC**, has been teaching as an adjunct for the Department of Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling at USF since 1994. She also has a private practice in Sarasota County, Florida with offices in both Venice and Sarasota. Dr. Carroll specializes in group psychotherapy and has taught Group Theory and Practice, Evaluation and Assessment, and Counseling Theory to master's level counseling students. She has 15 years' experience as a psychotherapist with nine years in the field of eating disorders. In addition she is currently president of FemInsights, Inc., which she founded to develop and implement intensive workshop programs for both men and women who envision their potential for a more creative and cooperative mode of life that allows for caring for the self while recognizing the need for compassion and interconnectedness with others. Dr. Carroll earned her M.A. in Rehabilitation Counseling in 1984 and her Ph.D. in Counselor Education (1993), both from USF. She is a licensed Mental Health Counselor, National Certified Counselor, Certified Rehabilitation Counselor and a Certified Eating Disorders Specialist.

**Robynanne Cash-Howard, M.A., CRC, CVE, CCM, CLCP**, has worked in the field for 24 years in a variety of settings; private non-profit, private for-profit, public, and currently is in private practice. Her experiences and education are focused in vocational and medical aspects of rehabilitation. She earned her Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling from USF and holds the following nationally recognized certifications: Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, Certified Vocational Evaluator, Certified Case Manager, and Certified Life Care Planner. Additionally she is recognized by the Social Security Administration as a Vocational Expert and is a Qualified Rehabilitation Professional via the State of Florida. Ms. Cash-Howard maintains membership with several professional organizations: International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals, International Academy of Life Care Planners, and National Rehabilitation Association, and has held office in Florida Rehabilitation Association and Tampa Mayor's Alliance for Persons with Disabilities. She has been an Adjunct Professor with the Department of Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling since 1997.

**Dr. Christina Dillahunt-Aspillaga, Ph.D., CRC, CVE, CLCP, PVE, CBIST, CIRS**, received her PhD in Rehabilitation Science and her Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Florida. She is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC), a Certified Vocational Evaluator (CVE), a Certified Life Care Planner (CLCP), and a Certified Brain Injury Specialist Trainer (CBIST). Christina is employed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling in the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences at the University of South Florida in Tampa. Christina is currently working as WOC Research Associate at the Center of Innovation on Disability & Rehabilitation Research (CINDRR) at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa. She is the former State Director of Family Programs and Services for Brain Injury Association of Florida, Inc. Her research areas include employment for persons with disabilities with an emphasis on Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Other interests include family and community support, caregiving, and community re-integration for individuals with TBI.

**Gary DuDell, Ph.D., L.M.H.C., CRC, CAP**, is clinical instructor and field placement coordinator in the Department of Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling. Along with his teaching and field placement responsibilities, Dr. DuDell is Director of Graduate Studies overseeing admissions for the department. In addition, Dr. DuDell developed and coordinates the Integrative Mental Health Care Certificate program. Dr. DuDell has been a psychotherapist in both the private and public sectors since 1974. His clinical work includes individual, couples, and group counseling in in-patient and out-patient settings. He maintains a private practice and provides workshops throughout Tampa Bay. Dr. DuDell is an approved clinical supervisor for the State of Florida. Professional publications include Teenagers, Drugs, and Growing Up, co-authoring several journal articles, and school-based prevention education curriculum.

**Ryan Henry, Ph.D., LMFT**, graduated from University of South Florida with a bachelor's degree in Gerontology. Following graduation he worked for the Alzheimer's Association Tampa bay chapter before beginning his graduate work. He completed his masters and PhD in Marriage and family therapy from Brigham Young University. Since graduation he has worked in both agency settings and private practice conducting marriage and family therapy services over the last 6 years. Currently he is the director of the Marriage and Family Therapy Certificate Program at the University of South Florida.

**William Kearns, Ph.D.**, is a Research Associate Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling and former faculty of the Department of Aging and Mental Health Disparities. He received his Ph.D. in psychology from the University of South Florida in 1989 and served as IT director of the Florida Mental Health Institute from 1992 to 2003. His interests include using automation to facilitate improved care for persons with cognitive impairment and using technology to improve access to mental health services and education. He is the President of the International Society for Gerontechnology's North American chapter and is the Associate Editor for the international journal Gerontechnology. He was USF's Executive Liaison to the Internet2 Project, a consortium of over 200 Carnegie Research Institutions nationwide charged with developing enhanced network services supporting research and education from 1997-2007. He has been a grant reviewer for the National Science Foundation, the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality and the USF Office of Research.

**Barbara LoFrisco, Ph.D., LMHC, LMFT**

**Aaron Norton, LMHC, CAP, CRC**, is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Certified Addictions Professional, and Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. He is a clinician, trainer, and consultant working full time in private practice, where he specializes in mental health and substance abuse evaluations, addictions, depression, and LGBT issues. He is a graduate of the Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling program and has worked in a variety of clinical and supervisory positions in vocational rehabilitation, community mental health, and substance abuse treatment, both in the public and private sectors. He currently serves as the President of the Suncoast Mental Health Counselors Association and is a Qualified Supervisor for Registered Mental Health Counselor Interns.

**Randy K. Otto, Ph.D.**, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Mental Health Law & Policy at the Florida Mental Health Institute and Adjunct Associate Professor at Stetson University College of Law. Dr. Otto obtained a doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Florida State University and completed a clinical psychology internship at the Medical University of South Carolina. Prior to joining the faculty at the University of South Florida, Dr. Otto was a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Law and Psychology Program administered by the College of Law and Department of Psychology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Dr. Otto is a licensed psychologist and is board certified in forensic psychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology. He has served as President of the American Psychology-Law Society, the American Academy of Forensic Psychology, and the American Board of Forensic Psychology. In 2007 he joined department colleagues Norm Poythress and John Petrila in authoring the third edition of Psychological Evaluations for the Courts: A Handbook for Mental Health Professionals and Lawyers.

**Dae C. Sheridan, Ph.D.**, is a professor of Human Sexuality, a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, a Board Certified Clinical Sexologist and a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor with a private consulting and psychotherapy practice in Tampa, Florida. Over the past twelve years, Dr. Sheridan has utilized cognitive behavioral therapy techniques and a supportive, empowering, strengths-based perspective to provide thousands of clinical therapy hours assisting individuals, couples and families. A recognized speaker and commentator on sexual and mental health issues, Dr. Sheridan regularly presents her research and participates as a featured expert for television, internet and other media outlets. She specializes in issues of relationships, communication, intimacy, desire, arousal, sexual dysfunction, sexual trauma, adjustment to disability, adolescent development, parenting, stress, anger, anxiety and depression. Dr. Sheridan serves as an adjunct faculty member at the University of South Florida, teaching Human Sexuality in the Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling Program and is an assistant clinical professor at the American Academy of Clinical Sexologists. She is a diplomat of the American Board of Sexology, a member of the American Psychological Association, the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality and the American Mental Health Counselors Association.

**Tammy Jorgensen-Smith, Ph.D., CRC**, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling. Dr. Smith has a Ph.D. in Leadership in Education with a Specialization in Counseling from Barry University and a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Services from Florida State University. She has been a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor since 1999. Dr. Smith has focused her career on the research and implementation of innovative, best practice models that are designed to promote full inclusion for individuals with disabilities and on activities that promote self-determination and quality in all aspects of life. She joined the University of South Florida in 2007 as a Research Assistant Professor with Florida Center for Inclusive Communities - a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. Currently, Dr. Smith holds a tenure-earning appointment in the Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling Department. Dr. Smith remains affiliated with the Florida Center for Inclusive Communities through multiple research grants.

**Marilyn Stern, Ph.D.**, received her doctorate in Counseling Psychology from the University of Buffalo and then completed a post-doctoral fellowship in health psychology at Roswell Cancer Institute. After completing her post-doc, Dr. Stern was at the University of Albany and then was the director of training of the counseling psychology program at Virginia Commonwealth University. She began her tenure in RMHC at USF in 2013. Dr. Stern's primary professional focus in pediatric psychosocial oncology has been in adolescents with cancer, communication, and transition to survivorship; developing interventions to reduce childhood and adolescent obesity, and the vulnerable child syndrome. Her current work focuses on identifying those factors related to optimal development among children and adolescents transitioning off active cancer treatment, with the aim of developing interventions to optimize their adaptation to survivorship.

**Richard B. Weinberg, Ph.D., ABPP**, is a Licensed Psychologist and Diplomat, American Board of Professional Psychology. His Bachelor's degree (cum laude) is from the University of Michigan. The Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology was awarded by USF following a Clinical Fellowship at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital in 1980-81. Dr. Weinberg has been at USF's Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute since 1981. Currently he is Clinical Associate Professor, Dr. Weinberg teaches Family Therapy and Techniques each Fall semester, Marriage Therapy and Techniques each Spring semester, and Medical Family Therapy each Summer semester. Academic interests include crisis intervention, family psychology, stress factors in health and mental health, and violence prevention. In 2007 the Tampa/Hillsborough County Human Rights Council named Dr. Weinberg the recipient of its annual Human Rights Award.

**Tennyson J. Wright, Ph.D., CRC**, is Chair and an Associate Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling. He holds a M.Ed. in rehabilitation counseling and a Ph.D. in Counseling and Student Personnel Services, with an emphasis in Rehabilitation Counseling, from the University of Georgia. Dr. Wright joined the Department in 1985 and was awarded tenure in 1990. For the period 1991-2003, he was a member of the Office of the Provost. During the period, he was responsible for faculty affairs and rose to the level of Vice Provost. Dr. Wright remains active professionally in the field of rehabilitation and is the Co-Principle Investigator of a contract with the State of Florida to provide "Rehabilitation Engineering and Technology Services."