

Appendix 6-2

The Status Of Vocational Evaluation

In Rehabilitation Counselor Education Curriculums

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The primary goal of this study was to delineate the curricular components in existing rehabilitation counselor education programs that directly provide orientation, knowledge, and/or skills in vocational evaluation.

Within this objective, suborder goals were to identify both the need and the interest by rehabilitation counseling educators in including vocational evaluation courses in rehabilitation counseling curricula.

METHODOLOGY

The survey used in this study consisted of nine questions which attempted to balance the forced choice approach with space for narrative elaboration of responses.

The survey was mailed to eighty-six universities and colleges listed in the 1973 *Directory of Graduate Rehabilitation Counselor Training Programs and Undergraduate Rehabilitation Education Programs* compiled by the Council on Rehabilitation Counselor Education (CRCE). Five additional universities and colleges with academic curriculums closely related to vocational evaluation and/or rehabilitation counseling were also selected to participate in the study.

In all, ninety-one surveys were initially sent to various universities and colleges. After a second and third mailing, responses were received from eighty-one universities and colleges for a total response of 89%.

It was felt that a survey return rate of 89% was great enough to allow conclusions to be drawn from the data. The survey responses are listed in Tables 1 and 2 with a discussion of the question following each respective table.

This format will not be applicable to question 2,* which asked the

*All questions in the survey are contained in Tables 1 and 2 with the exception of question 2 below.

(2) Please check specific rehabilitation courses being offered:

(Titles may differ—interpolate for your university setting)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Principles of Rehabilitation | <input type="checkbox"/> Transitional Work Programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization of Rehabilitation Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Clinical Procedures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Aspects of Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling Practicum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psychological and Social Aspects of Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Internship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psychosocial Medical Aspects of Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocational Counseling and Placement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Career and Life Style Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Placement and Case Practices |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appraisal in School/Agency Counseling | <input type="checkbox"/> Seminar in Rehabilitation Counseling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluation in Rehabilitation | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Problems in Rehabilitation |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Rehabilitation Research |

respondents to check specific rehabilitation course offerings. The responses showed such a lack of agreement on common titles that were used to designate course work that the data available were impossible to decipher.

With the exception of the second question, all of the remaining questions in the surveys were answered in a clear, concise manner that allowed ease of tabulation and understanding.

SURVEY RESULTS

Table 1 shows the level and number of degree offerings in rehabilitation counseling by regions.

There was generally a marked symmetry in the number of programs above and below master's level, which probably reflects the current philosophy that counselors in vocational rehabilitation should have a master's degree. In all, there were 28 undergraduate and 25 doctoral programs reported, for a total of 53 programs, while there were 71 master's level programs tabulated.

Another interesting point is the uneven distribution of the doctoral training programs. Region IV reported seven programs, Region V reported four, Regions II and VI reported three programs each. With these exceptions, none of the other regions reaches the mean of 2.5 programs per region.

Table 2 provides the survey results for questions 3—9 by regions. It also provides mean scores of agreement or disagreement with each question.

When the responses to questions 3 and 4 are analyzed, it appears that there is a marked overall contrast between the general consensus of need for vocational evaluation as an educational program, with 85% agreeing, and the low number of current course offerings, with only 31% stating that they offer a specific course in vocational evaluation. This may be indicative of the current situation in which the need for vocational evaluation is widely recognized, yet there is a minimum of universities or colleges offering academic programs in vocational evaluation. Even, as in question 5, when asked if vocational evaluation is taught as a component of any other academic program and/or course, only 40% gave positive responses.

An interesting situation is apparent when the results of question 6, which asked if vocational evaluation programs are used as field work placements, are analyzed. All of the respondents indicate that they often utilized vocational evaluation programs as field work placements, with the average being 79%. Clearly this demonstrates that the respondents value the experiences their counseling students can receive from a placement in a vocational evaluation program.

The data generated from the seventh question indicate that on the average, 64% of the students have expressed an interest in vocational evaluation. This question was interesting since the positive responses ranged from 0% to 100%. These data indicate that although vocational evaluation

training is somewhat subsumed under other courses, there is an expressed student interest which is not being met. Vocational evaluation seems to offer a promising career to rehabilitation students, yet academic training is not available in the majority of regions. Although few of the polled schools offer a specific course in vocational evaluation, most respondents indicated that vocational evaluation programs were used as field placements. This trend may reflect a belief that vocational evaluation is best taught through actual experience rather than academic course work.

The results of question 8 indicate that overall, less than half the respondents had staff formally trained in work evaluation or with work experience as a vocational evaluator. While less than half of the staff had any former training, question 9 indicates that overall, 72% of the respondents would be willing to participate in a joint program in rehabilitation counseling and vocational evaluation.

Considering the responses to all questions by region, an inverse relationship appears between specific course offerings in vocational evaluation and its inclusion as a component in other courses. Region I is a good example of this. Region X showed the lowest interest on the part of graduates, but the highest interest among staff regarding the inclusion of vocational evaluation. Region VIII showed conviction that vocational evaluation should be a component of an educational program, but paradoxically was unwilling to participate in a joint program. Region VII offered no courses or course components in vocational evaluation, but showed the highest interest on the part of program graduates. The overall average affirmative response to all questions ranged from 40% to 85%.

Table 1 shows the level and number of degree offerings in Rehabilitation Counseling by regions.

SURVEY RESULTS

Table 1. Survey Results of Question 1 and Number of Respondents by Region

Question 1	Region										TOTAL
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	
(1) Please check number of specific degree offering(s):	Conn. Maine Mass. N.H. Vt.	N.J. N.Y. V.I. P.R.	Del. D.C. Md. Pa. Va. W.Va.	Ala. Fla. Ga. Ky. Miss. N.C. S.C. Tenn.	Ill. Ind. Mich. Minn. Ohio Wis.	Ark. La. N.Mex. Okla. Texas	Iowa Kan. Mo. Neb.	Colo. Mont. N.D. S.D. Utah Wyo.	Ariz. Cal. Hawaii Nev. Guam	Alaska Idaho Oregon Wash.	
Undergraduate	1	4	3	6	5	4	1	2	2	0	28
Graduate	3	7	9	14	14	6	4	3	9	2	71
Doctoral	1	3	2	7	4	3	2	1	2	0	25
Total	5	14	14	27	23	13	7	6	13	2	124
Total Number Respondents	4	9	11	15	15	9	4	3	9	2	81

Examination of Table 1 illustrates that the largest concentration of Rehabilitation Counselor Education Programs is in Regions IV and V. The Northeastern Region (Region I) and the Northwestern Region (Region X) had the least reported number of programs at all levels.

Table 2. Survey Results—Questions 3—9

		Region										MEAN	
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X		
		Conn.	N.J.	Del.	Ala.	Ill.	Ark.	Iowa	Colo.	Ariz.	Alaska		
		Maine	N.Y.	D.C.	Fla.	Ind.	La.	Kan.	Mont.	Cal.	Idaho		
		Mass.	V.I.	Md.	Ga.	Mich.	N.Mex.	Mo.	N.D.	Hawaii	Oregon		
		N.H.	P.R.	Pa.	Ky.	Minn.	Okla.	Neb.	S.D.	Nev.	Wash.		
		Vt.		Va.	Miss.	Ohio	Texas		Utah	Guam			
				W.Va.	N.C.	Wis.			Wyo.				
					S.C.								
					Tenn.								
Questions	(3) Do you feel that vocational evaluation should be a component of an educational program in rehabilitation counseling?	YES	100%	67%	100%	73%	93%	78%	100%	100%	89%	50%	85%
		NO	0%	38%	0%	27%	7%	22%	0%	0%	11%	50%	15%
	(4) Do you offer a specific course for rehabilitation counselors in vocational evaluation?	YES	100%	22%	36%	33%	27%	22%	0%	67%	22%	0%	31%
		NO	0%	78%	64%	67%	73%	78%	100%	33%	78%	100%	69%
	(5) Is vocational evaluation taught as a component of any other academic program and/or course?	YES	25%	67%	18%	20%	60%	56%	0%	33%	44%	50%	40%
		NO	75%	33%	82%	80%	40%	44%	100%	67%	56%	50%	60%
	(6) Are vocational evaluation programs used as field work placements?	YES	100%	89%	73%	73%	93%	67%	75%	67%	67%	100%	79%
		NO	0%	11%	27%	27%	7%	33%	25%	33%	33%	0%	21%
	(7) To your knowledge: Have your graduates expressed an interest in vocational evaluation?	YES	75%	67%	82%	60%	67%	67%	100%	67%	33%	0%	64%
		NO	25%	33%	18%	40%	33%	33%	0%	33%	67%	100%	36%
	(8) Do any of your staff have: (a) formal academic education in vocational evaluation? (b) Work experience as a vocational evaluator?	YES	50%	78%	18%	33%	40%	33%	25%	33%	56%	50%	41%
		NO	50%	22%	82%	67%	60%	67%	75%	67%	44%	50%	59%
		YES	75%	33%	18%	27%	40%	44%	25%	33%	78%	50%	40%
		NO	25%	67%	82%	73%	60%	56%	75%	67%	22%	50%	60%
	(9) Would you and/or your staff be willing to participate in a joint program on rehabilitation counseling and vocational evaluation?	YES	75%	57%	73%	73%	80%	89%	75%	33%	56%	100%	72%
		NO	25%	43%	27%	27%	20%	11%	25%	67%	44%	0%	28%
Total Number Respondents			4	9	11	15	15	9	4	3	9	2	81