

Proposed Program Name Change from Rehabilitation Counseling to Rehabilitation and Career Counseling Program

The Department of Rehabilitation Studies (REHB) voted unanimously at its departmental meeting held on February 6, 2012 to change the Rehabilitation Counseling degree title name to include “career.” All eleven (11) of the department’s voting faculty voted unanimously in favor of the name change and none (0) voted against it. The name everybody agreed on is **Rehabilitation and Career Counseling** program.

Rationale: The Rehabilitation Studies department has been in existence since 1967. The Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) began accrediting rehabilitation counselor programs in 1972 and was the first organization to accredit counseling programs in the United States. The Rehabilitation Counseling program at ECU was one of the first to become accredited through CORE thus our graduates are currently eligible to obtain counselor licensure. Adding career counseling courses and Career Counseling in our name will be pivotal for accreditation from the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). The CACREP Standards Manual (2009) Section II on Professional Identity highlights the need to “bring the counseling program into focus and concisely describe the program’s intent and purpose” (p. 9).

In terms of future need and employment growth, the United States’ Department of Labor’s Occupational Outlook Handbook (2010-2011 Edition) reports that rehabilitation and career counselors are in high demand and their employment growth rate is expected to be “faster than the average [growth rate] of all occupations” and “favorable” because job openings are expected to exceed the number of graduates from counseling programs. In 2008, there were 129,500 rehabilitation counselors. In 2018 the projected employment for rehabilitation counselors is 154,100, a 19% increase. In addition, all Clinical Mental Health Counselors who want to work with veterans under TRICARE, will be required to have graduated from a CACREP accredited program by January 1, 2015. With these projected changes, the need for educating rehabilitation and career counselors is likely to increase. However, employment success by our students relies on CORE and CACREP accreditation.

Please consider this to be our formal request to change the name of Rehabilitation Counseling program to **Rehabilitation and Career Counseling** program. See page 2 for a summary of steps and procedures (as per Part V, section C, number 2 of the ECU Faculty Manual) for a degree title change.

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Part V section C, #2 of the ECU Faculty Manual lists the following steps for the department name change:

Steps/Procedure	Date Approved
1. Curriculum Committee of the Department	2-6-12
2. Voting Faculty –REHB dept.	2-6-12
3. Interim Chair –REHB dept.	2-6-12
4. CAHS –Graduate Curriculum Committee	2-8-12
5. CAHS –Undergraduate Curriculum Committee	2-13-12
6. CAHS –Dean -Thomas	2-13-12
7. VC Health Sciences –Horns	2-17-12
8. Graduate Council	
9. Educational Policies & Planning Committee	
10. Faculty Senate	
11. Chancellor	