

PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING, CERTIFICATE IN (POST-MASTER'S CERTIFICATE)

Program goals

The post-master's certificate program in professional counseling is designed for persons who hold the Master of Science or Master of Arts degree in counseling from VCU or other accredited institutions. The intent is to assist students in meeting the educational requirements for the Licensed Professional Counselor, the Licensed Substance Abuse Practitioner and the Certified Substance Abuse Counselor credentials in Virginia and other states.

The certificate program also may be pursued to fulfill preservice or continuing education requirements for various national certifications, such as National Certified Counselor or Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. Specialization requirements may exceed the minimum number of required credit hours for the certificate program as a whole.

Courses are selected from course offerings of the Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling program based on individualized need and in conjunction with a faculty adviser.

Specific goals include but are not limited to:

1. The encouragement of advanced graduate education in counseling
2. The facilitation of the professional counselor's career development efforts and goals
3. The facilitation of the acquisition or maintenance of professional state licenses or national certificates
 - a. The expansion of the student's awareness and expertise in specialized counselor roles and functions

Student learning outcomes

Upon completion of the program, the graduate will be able to:

1. Develop and maintain confidential counseling relationships with individuals using established skills and techniques
2. Establish, in collaboration with the consumer, individual counseling goals and objectives
3. Apply advanced counseling and interviewing skills
4. Employ consultation skills with and on behalf of the consumer

VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs

The VCU Graduate Bulletin website documents the official admission and academic rules and regulations that govern graduate education for all graduate programs at the university. These policies are established by the graduate faculty of the university through their elected representatives to the University Graduate Council.

It is the responsibility of all graduate students, both on- and off-campus, to be familiar with the VCU Graduate Bulletin as well as the Graduate School website (<http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/>) and academic regulations in individual school and department publications and

on program websites. However, in all cases, the official policies and procedures of the University Graduate Council, as published on the VCU Graduate Bulletin and Graduate School websites, take precedence over individual program policies and guidelines.

Visit the **academic regulations** section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/>)

Graduation requirements

As graduate students approach the end of their academic programs and the final semester of matriculation, they must make formal application to graduate. No degrees will be conferred until the application to graduate has been finalized.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following graduation requirements as published in the Graduate Bulletin for a complete list of instructions and a graduation checklist.

Visit the **academic regulations** section for additional information on graduation requirements. (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad-graduation-info/>)

Apply online today. (<https://www.vcu.edu/admissions/apply/graduate/>)

Admission requirements

Degree:	Semester(s) of entry:	Deadline dates:	Test requirements:
Post-master's certificate	Fall	Jan 15	
	Spring	Sep 15	
	Summer	Apr 1	

Special requirements

- Satisfactory performance in graduate education (based on official transcripts)
- Three references from academics (your instructors/professors or academic advisor), employers, or supervisors are preferred.
- A personal statement and three supplemental statements (prompts are provided in the graduate school application)
- Current resume or curriculum vita
- **For certificate program applicants only:** If the applicant is applying to the certificate program to obtain courses toward the Virginia LPC, please submit a copy of the masters level transcript to the Board of Counseling for a pre-review (https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/forms/counseling/LPC/LPC_Pre-Review_App.pdf). (Only required if the applicant did not graduate with your masters in counseling from VCU). By submitting the paperwork, The Board reviewers determine two things: 1) what courses you will need in the certificate program 2) verification that your previous masters degree is eligible for LPC licensure.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/admission-graduate-study/admission-requirements/>), applicants must have completed a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling or a related discipline.

Upon admission to the program, students must meet with an academic adviser to design an approved course of study that leads to the

completion of the educational requirements for licensure or certification as a professional counselor.

Degree requirements

In addition to general Graduate School graduation requirements (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info/>),

1. Students must complete a minimum of 15 graduate credit hours of course work in professional counseling that leads to the completion of the educational requirements for licensure or certification as a professional counselor, as prescribed in their approved courses of study. Specialization requirements may exceed the minimum number of required credit hours for the certificate program as a whole.
2. Students must maintain an overall minimum grade point average of 3.0.
3. The 15 graduate credit hours must not duplicate previous graduate course work completed at VCU or other institutions.
4. The 15 graduate credit hours must include six graduate credit hours in advanced counseling skills.
5. Transfer credits are not accepted.

Curriculum requirements

Upon admission to the program, students must meet with an academic adviser to design an approved course of study that leads to the completion of the educational requirements for licensure or certification as a professional counselor. Each plan of study is individualized, but may include courses from the following list, if approved by the faculty adviser.

Licensed Professional Counselor credential

Course	Title	Hours
RHAB 613	Advanced Rehabilitation Counseling Seminar (three-credit course; may be repeated for a total of nine credit hours) 1,2	9
RHAB 614	Counseling, Death and Loss ²	3
RHAB 615	Human Growth and Development	3
Total Hours		15

1

Possible topics: cognitive behavioral therapy; crisis counseling, etc.

2

Courses that may satisfy the six graduate credit hours in advanced counseling skills requirement.

The minimum total of graduate credit hours required for this certificate is 15.

Certified Rehabilitation Counselor credential

Course	Title	Hours
Select five of the following:		15
RHAB 525	Introduction to Rehabilitation Counseling	
RHAB 611	Theories of Professional Counseling	
RHAB 623	Career Counseling and Job Placement	
RHAB 624	Assessment and Evaluation	
RHAB 640	Medical and Psychosocial Aspects of Disabilities	

RHAB 633	Case Management
RHAB 654	Multicultural Counseling
RHAB 691	Counseling Techniques
Total Hours	15

The minimum total of graduate credit hours required for this certificate is 15.

Licensure requirements

Refer to the Department of Rehabilitation Counseling website for additional information on Licensed Professional Counselor (<http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/rehab/current/lpc.html>) and the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification website (<http://www.crc certification.com/pages/aboutcertification/46.php>) for Certified Rehabilitation Counselor examination requirements.

Contact

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Program website: rehab.chp.vcu.edu/programs/advanced-certificate-in-professional-counseling (<https://rehab.chp.vcu.edu/programs/advanced-certificate-in-professional-counseling/>)