CAREER SERIES

Trends in Rehabilitation Counseling

Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC)
The world’s largest rehabilitation counseling organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with disabilities, CRCC sets the standard for competent delivery of quality rehabilitation counseling services through its nationally accredited and internationally recognized Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) certification program.
TRENDS IN
REHABILITATION COUNSELING

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

Over 56 million people in the United States report having a disability. That’s 19% of the total population or nearly 1 out of every 5 people. Of this number, over two-thirds, or 38 million, report having a severe disability. (U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income Participation, May-August 2010.)

Disability can happen at any time. Disabilities may be present at birth or happen as a result of illness, disease, accident, military service, and/or ongoing stress. Disabilities may be physical, sensory, cognitive, developmental, and/or related to mental health or other health conditions.

In the Workforce

While individuals with disabilities account for 19% of the total population, they make up only 4% of the current labor force. In 2016, 18% of persons with a disability were employed versus 65.3% employment for those without a disability. Conversely, the unemployment rate for individuals with disabilities is 10.5% - significantly higher than the 4.6% rate for individuals with no disability. (Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Economic News Release, June 21, 2017 reporting on 2016 data.)

Growth Projection

The number of individuals with disabilities is expected to continue increasing over the next 10 years.

- Medical advances will increase the number of people surviving with disabilities.
- Military service-related disabilities will increase.
- Number of persons with learning disabilities, autism spectrum, and substance use will increase.
- Aging population, who are more likely to become injured or to acquire a disability than other age group, will increase.

Consequently, the need and demand for services for individuals with disabilities is expected to continue to grow in the future.

EMPLOYMENT

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that nearly 120,000 jobs were held by rehabilitation counselors in 2016, with the majority (29%) employed within vocational rehabilitation services.

Growth Projection

Future employment opportunities in the field of rehabilitation counseling are projected to be very strong. The BLS projects that employment of rehabilitation counselors is expected to grow by over 11,600 jobs from 2016 to 2026 - an increase of 10% for the 10-year period. This is greater than the average for all occupations, which is only 7% for the 10-year period.
TRENDS IN REHABILITATION COUNSELING (cont.)

Rehabilitation Counselors¹

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Master’s Degree</th>
<th>Entry-Level Education</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>119,300</td>
<td>Number of Jobs, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>130,900</td>
<td>Job Outlook, 2026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11,600</td>
<td>Increase in Jobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Job Outlook, 2016-2026 (faster than average)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources of Projected Growth

Industry work settings representing the highest projected employment growth for rehabilitation counselors over the next 10 years include individual and family services, outpatient mental health and substance use centers, residential intellectual and developmental disability facilities, and residential mental health and substance use facilities.

Rehabilitation Counselors - Employment Growth Projections²

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11,600</th>
<th>Total Employment, Increase in Jobs</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7,400</td>
<td>Individual and family services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>Outpatient mental health and substance use centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>Residential intellectual and developmental disability facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Residential mental health and substance use facilities</td>
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SALARIES

In 2014, the American Counseling Association (ACA) undertook a historic project on behalf of counselors – the first ever Counselor Compensation Study³. Nearly 9,000 counselors from across the nation, including rehabilitation counselors, participated. In the survey, rehabilitation counselors came out on top.

Better Pay
Rehabilitation counselors are the most highly paid counseling specialty, earning on average, over $13,000 more than Clinical Mental Health Counselors, Mental Health Counselors, or Community Counselors, across most geographies.

Better Benefits
Rehabilitation counselors receive better overall benefits than other professional counselors, including better employee retirement plans, medical coverage, dental, vision, and both short- and long-term disability.

View the 2014 ACA Counselor Compensation Study.

³ The ACA Counselor Compensation Study is a more accurate reflection of salary data for rehabilitation counselors vs. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) salary data. BLS data populates its wage estimates by task. As a result, a significant number of staff who might perform similar tasks that focus only on a subset of the full scope of duties a rehabilitation counselor is capable of performing and/or who do not have the Master’s-level education that is the recognized standard for the rehabilitation counseling profession, are included in the BLS data, thus eroding the salary estimate for the professional-level rehabilitation counselor.