



COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES AND HUMAN SERVICES

General Overview

Recognizing the need for the University to take a leading role in the education of health care and human service professionals, the College of Health Sciences and Human Services, with the assistance and cooperation of regional facilities, is dedicated to providing educational programs necessary to meet the needs for competent health and human service professionals in the Rio Grande Valley, Texas, and the nation.

Mission

The College of Health Sciences and Human Services supports and facilitates the mission of The University of Texas-Pan American through academic programs of higher education, research and community service. The college is committed to enhancing the quality of life and health care in the Lower Rio Grande Valley binational border community and region. The faculty espouse a holistic multidisciplinary approach to meeting the educational needs of students and the dynamic health and human services needs of a diverse and multicultural society.

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Academic Programs

The College of Health Sciences and Human Services offers the Master of Arts degree in communication sciences and disorders, the Master of Science degree in rehabilitation counseling, the Master of Science in nursing degree, the Master of Science degree in occupational therapy, the Master of Science in social work degree, the Master of Science in physician assistant studies, a Ph.D in rehabilitation counseling, and the Cooperative Pharmacy Program with The University of Texas at Austin.

The College of Health Sciences and Human Services offers a Bachelor of Science in clinical laboratory science, communication sciences and disorders, dietetics, nursing, rehabilitative services and a Bachelor of social work degree. The Department of Rehabilitation also offers a minor in addiction studies as well as a minor in deaf studies.

Individual programs offered in the College of Health Sciences and Human Services have specific admissions requirements in addition to the University core curriculum requirements. Most programs also have requirements for student liability insurance, immunizations, and student criminal background checks. For specific information on these requirements, please see the major department, the advisement center, or the college web site. Curricula for these programs provide theory as well as practice-based learning experiences. The practice-experience components have University negotiated affiliation agreements with numerous health, human and social service facilities in South Texas and other regions.

Cooperative Pharmacy Program

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Introduction

The University of Texas-Pan American, in cooperation with The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy offers a six-year curriculum leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree.

The Pharm.D. degree is the sole entry-level degree offered in the United States for those interested in becoming a licensed pharmacist. The Pharm.D. is a professional doctorate designed to prepare pharmacist practitioners to provide patient-oriented care in contemporary settings including, but not limited to, community practice, hospital environments and long-term care facilities.

The Cooperative Pharmacy Program (CPP) was developed to encourage students to consider pharmacy

as a career. The CPP offers students the opportunity to complete pre-pharmacy and pharmacy curriculum at UTPA and in the surrounding Rio Grande Valley. The CPP offers two pathways, an early admissions pathway intended for graduating high school students, and a transitional pathway for students enrolled as pre-pharmacy majors at UTPA. Students admitted into the CPP have conditional admission to the UT Austin College of Pharmacy. Final admission approval is afforded by UT Austin College of Pharmacy upon successful completion of pharmacy prerequisites and other CPP requirements.

UTPA students who are not admitted into the CPP, yet are interested in pursuing pharmacy as a career, may apply directly to UT Austin College of Pharmacy upon completion of the required pharmacy prerequisites. Please visit the CPP web site for additional information about the profession of pharmacy and links to the other Texas pharmacy programs.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Cooperative Pharmacy Program is to enhance the knowledge, health and well-being of the people we serve in concert with the mission, vision and values of both cooperating campuses of The University of Texas System through the recruitment, training and retention of proficient Doctor of Pharmacy trained pharmacists. The program will strive to encourage the provision of pharmaceutical care by cultivation of our graduates critical thinking skills and an appreciation for the need for life long learning. The program will foster the development of clinical and transitional research and clinical pharmacy services with other health care providers in the region, state and nation.

Accreditation

The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accredits both The University of Texas-Pan American and The University of Texas at Austin. In addition, The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education, 20 North Clark Street, Suite 2500, Chicago, IL 60602-5109, 312/664-3575, 800/533-3606; fax 312/664-4652; Web site: www.acpe-accredit.org. Only graduates of accredited programs are eligible to sit for the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination™ (NAPLEX®) and Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination® (MPJE®), both of which are required for licensure in the state of Texas.

Pharmacy Curriculum

The CPP is structured so that the students admitted into the program complete their first two years of pre-pharmacy requirements at UTPA, and then matriculate to UT Austin to complete their first two years of the pharmacy curriculum. Students then return to UTPA and the Rio Grande Valley

to complete their third and fourth years of the pharmacy curriculum.

Pre-Pharmacy Years 1 and 2 at UTPA

(see next section for details)

Years 1 and 2: Coursework in English, Mathematics and the Natural Sciences.

Pharmacy Curriculum Years 1 and 2 at UT Austin

Year 3: A broad foundation in physiology, pathology, pharmaceutical sciences and pharmacy administration.

Year 4: An interdisciplinary approach to disease management and patient care through case-based learning.

Pharmacy Curriculum Years 3 and 4 at UTPA and in the Rio Grande Valley

Year 5: Advanced coursework in disease management and patient care.

Year 6: Calendar year consisting of seven six-week experiential rotations at pharmacy practice sites around the Rio Grande Valley.

Pre-Pharmacy Course Requirements

The following is an overview of the pre-pharmacy curricular requirements for the CPP and UT Austin College of Pharmacy. Individual degree plans will be developed for students admitted into the CPP.

Natural Sciences			36 hours
BIOL	1401	General Biology	
		OR	
BIOL	1487	Honors Biology	
BIOL	1402	General Biology	
		OR	
BIOL	1488	Honors Biology	
BIOL	3401	Microbiology	
BIOL	3413	Genetics	
CHEM	1301	General Chemistry I	
		AND	
CHEM	1101	General Chemistry Lab I	
CHEM	1302	General Chemistry II	
		AND	
CHEM	1102	General Chemistry Lab II	
CHEM	2302	Organic Chemistry I	
		AND	
CHEM	2102	Organic Chemistry I Lab	
CHEM	2303	Organic Chemistry II	
		AND	
CHEM	2103	Organic Chemistry II Lab	
PHYS	1401	General Physics	
Mathematics			7 hours
MATH	1460	Calculus I	
		OR	
MATH	1487	Honors Calculus I	
MATH	2330	Survey of Elementary Statistics	

		OR	
MATH	3337	Applied Statistics I	
English		9 hours	
ENG	1301	Composition	
		OR	
ENG	1387	Honors Rhetoric and Composition	
ENG	1302	Rhetoric	
		OR	
ENG	1388	Honors Rhetoric and Literature	
		AND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING	
ENG	2300	Introduction to Literature	
ENG	2303	Introduction to American Literature	
ENG	2305	Introduction to British Literature	
ENG	2307	Introduction to World Literature	
ENG	2387	Honors Readings in World Literature	
		OR	
ENG	2388	Honors Readings in World Literature	
Political Sciences		6 hours	
POLS	2313	United States and Texas Government and Politics	
		OR	
POLS	2387	Honors United States and Texas Government and Politics	
POLS	2314	United States and Texas Government and Politics	
		OR	
POLS	2388	Honors United States and Texas Government and Politics	
History		6 hours	
HIST	2313	American Heritage I	
		OR	
HIST	2387	Honors American Heritage I	
HIST	2314	American Heritage II	
		OR	
HIST	2388	Honors American Heritage II	
Electives		6 hours	
	Social and Behavioral Sciences		3 hours
	Arts and Humanities		3 hours
Total			70 hours

All CPP students will be required to take the Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT) prior to matriculating to UT Austin College of Pharmacy. PCAT score expectations and other additional CPP requirements will be discussed with the students upon admission.

Admission to the Cooperative Pharmacy Program

Please refer to the CPP Web site for admissions requirements and application materials. The CPP Web site is easily accessible through the College of Health Sciences and

Human Services Web site at <http://www.utpa.edu/hshs/>.

The CPP Web site also contains faculty and staff contact information along with other resources.

Communication Sciences and Disorders

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Graduate Faculty

Ayala, Kara, *Assistant Professor*

Mata-Pistokache, Teri, *Associate Professor*

Wang, Bailey Kehching, *Associate Professor*

Purpose

The Master of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders program is designed to prepare graduates for the Clinical Fellowship Year (CFY), the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech Language Pathology (CCC-SLP) from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), a license for the state of Texas, and eventually independent clinical practice in the profession of speech-language pathology.

Scope

The Master of Science degree in communication sciences and disorders is a clinical and academic degree. Students must possess a bachelor's degree in communication sciences and disorders to apply to the master's program. The graduate curriculum includes extensive supervised clinical practice, as well as coursework in the following areas:

- Research in communication disorders.
- Multicultural issues.
- Normal speech-language development across the life span.
- Procedures for diagnosing and assessing disorders of articulation and phonology, language, fluency, swallowing and voice in children and adults.
- Procedures for addressing the intervention needs of individuals with disorders of articulation and

phonology, child and adult language, fluency and voice and swallowing.

- Procedures for audiological screening, assessment and interpretation of audiological test results.

Admission to the Master's Program in Communication Sciences and Disorders

To be admitted to the graduate program in communication sciences and disorders, prospective candidates must first meet all requirements for graduate admission to UT Pan American (see page 17), as well as the other requirements listed below. Application for admission must be submitted online prior to the published deadline; the application is available at www.utpa.edu/gradschool. Once submitted, applicants can check the status of their applications online or by contacting the Graduate Office.

Undergraduates with the bachelor's degree in COMD must have completed the following courses, or courses equivalent to the following, through an accredited program in speech-language pathology.

COMD 2310	Intro to Speech-Language Pathology
COMD 2320	Phonetics
COMD 3315	Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech and Hearing Mechanism
COMD 3310	Normal Language Development
COMD 3330	Articulation Phonological Disorders
COMD 3340	Audiology I
COMD 3350	Speech Science
COMD 3360	Neuroanatomy
COMD 4330	Aural Rehabilitation
COMD 4360	Language Disorders in Children
COMD 4390	Principles of Assessment

Degree Requirements

Required Academic Coursework 39 Hours

Required Clinical Practicum 19 Hours

Total Hours Required 58 hours

COMD 6180	Audiology Practicum (one registration)
COMD 6301	Clinical Practicum I: Speech Pathology
COMD 6302	Clinical Practicum II: Speech Pathology
COMD 6303	Clinical Practicum III: Speech Pathology
COMD 6304	Clinical Practicum IV: Speech

	Pathology
COMD 6310	Research in Communication Disorders
COMD 6320	Speech-Language and Hearing Science
COMD 6325	Childhood Language Disorders and Clinical Intervention
COMD 6330	Fluency Disorders
COMD 6335	Language Disorders in Adults
COMD 6340	Phonological Assessment and Intervention
COMD 6345	Voice Disorders
COMD 6350	Audiology II
COMD 6355	Normal and Abnormal Language Development of Culturally Diverse Populations
COMD 6370	Seminar in Speech Language Pathology
COMD 6365	Language Assessment of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Populations
COMD 6385	Dysphagia
COMD 6395	Advanced Clinical Practicum (two registrations: Fall, Spring)
COMD 6397	Augmentative Alternative Communication

Practicum

All students must enroll in Clinical Practicum each semester during the first year (fall, spring, summer I, summer II). A minimum of one semester of COMD 6180 (Audiology Practicum) and a minimum of two semesters of COMD 6395 (Advanced Clinical Practicum) are required. Per ASHA requirements, at least 375 clock hours of supervised clinical practice and 25 hours of clinical observation must be completed and documented in conjunction with the practicum courses. These requirements are subject to change based on changes by the ASHA for certification.

Written and Oral Comprehensive Exams

Written comprehensive exams are required for the master's degree. However, should a student successfully complete the PRAXIS exam in Speech Language Pathology, written examinations will be waived. The PRAXIS and/or the written comprehensive exam should be completed in the final year of the student's graduate studies.

Graduate Thesis Option

Those who choose thesis must register for COMD 7300 during each semester of thesis work. Only three thesis credits may be counted toward graduation requirements. Students electing the thesis option must successfully defend the thesis.

Course Descriptions

A listing of graduate courses offered by the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders may be found in the Course Descriptions section of this catalog beginning on page 177.

Nursing

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Nieto, Beatriz, *Assistant Professor*
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Otto, Debra, *Assistant Professor*
Rodriguez, Melinda, *Lecturer*
Sullivan, Pamela, *Assistant Professor*

General Overview

The Department of Nursing offers courses leading to the Master of Science in Nursing. Clinical specializations in adult health or family nurse practitioner, educator, or nurse practitioner are available.

Mission

The curriculum in the UTPA Master of Science in Nursing Program is designed to facilitate the accomplishment of the mission of the Department of Nursing:

The nursing department supports the mission of the College of Health Sciences and Human Services through programs that educate individuals to meet the health care

needs of a culturally diverse society. These programs facilitate the development of competent practitioners with critical thinking skills to provide holistic nursing care to individuals, families, aggregates and communities. A commitment of fostering research and service that enhance health promotion, maintenance and restoration is integral to the mission of the nursing department.

The curriculum assumes an undergraduate base in nursing, physiology, pharmacology and health assessment. There are five major concepts integrated throughout:

1. Nursing as a critical thinking process.
2. The individual as a holistic being.
3. Health as a process.
4. Society as multicultural.
5. Education as a facilitator of change.

Nursing in advanced practice uses a theory and research-based nursing process to deliver and/or manage client care. Nursing focuses on a critical thinking process founded on concepts and principles leading to creative and intellectual processes.

The holistic individual is composed of integrated physiological, psychological, spiritual, cultural and social needs. In recognition of the dynamic nature of these health needs, the nurse in advanced practice uses a holistic approach to critically evaluate and conceptualize care based upon an expanded knowledge base. Using the holistic concept in the curriculum differentiates nursing from other health professions by virtue of its approach to the entirety of individuals and health.

Since the health status of an individual group is a changing phenomenon, it may be viewed as a process. In this process, individuals and groups respond to multiple stimuli by maintaining their present health status, moving toward increased wellness or moving toward increased illness.

Society is composed of groups of individuals interrelating with one another, each from diverse cultural, ethnic and environmental settings. Culture is composed of the values, behaviors, beliefs and ideas shared by a group of individuals within a society. The presence of many social groups, each with its unique culture, makes society multicultural.

Education facilitates change as evidenced by intellectual and professional growth. The graduate learning environment incorporates the principles of adult learning to promote the development of advanced critical thinking and intercollaborative skills that may be used in conceptualizing, synthesizing and evaluating management of nursing and health care problems.

Upon completion of the master's in nursing program, graduates have been provided the opportunity to enable themselves to:

1. Function as a scholar clinician with critical thinking skills.
2. Synthesize theories from natural, behavioral and social sciences to support advanced clinical nursing and role development.
3. Evaluate the use of nursing theories as a base for advanced practice
4. Participate in, evaluate and use research to promote

the body of nursing knowledge.

5. Practice at the beginning level in an advanced nursing role by:

a. Demonstrating critical thinking and diagnostic reasoning skills in clinical decision-making in the identification, evaluation and management of health needs of clients.

b. Demonstrating development of a healing nurse-client relationship.

c. Reflecting competency in the teaching-counseling aspects of practice.

6. Demonstrate cultural competence in meeting the dynamic health needs of the international, multicultural and multilingual society of the Rio Grande Valley.

7. Demonstrate beginning competency in the organizational and work role aspects of advanced practice.

8. Function as a nursing leader in professional association activities, health policy formation, and legislative and regulatory issues.

9. Function as a multidisciplinary collaborator in the assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of health care.

10. Demonstrate preparation for continuing education in formal and informal programs of study.

The Master of Science in Nursing Program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, D.C. 20036-1120, 202/887-6791).

Requirements for Admission into the Master of Science in Nursing Program

In order to be admitted to the Master of Science in Nursing Program, the student must first meet all requirements for graduate admission to UT Pan American (see page 17), as well as the other Department of Nursing requirements listed below. Application for admission to the University must be submitted online; the application is available at www.utpa.edu/gradschool. Once submitted, applicants can check the status of their applications online or by contacting the Graduate Office.

Applications are accepted throughout the year. The formal deadline, however, is April 1 (or the first previous business day if April 1 is a weekend date) for the next academic year beginning each fall semester. Admissions for Spring semester and summer sessions are based on space availability.

Clear Admission

To qualify for clear admission, an applicant must have:

1. A bachelor's degree in nursing from an accredited program.
2. Current licensure as a registered nurse in Texas.
3. Grade point average of 2.75 or above on a 4.0 scale in the last 60 hours attempted.
4. A basic statistics course.

5. Three satisfactory academic and/or professional references (may be submitted through the online application system).

6. Approval of the MSN Student Development Committee.

7. Immunization records showing freedom from active tuberculosis and immunity to hepatitis B (upon admission to the program).

8. A clear criminal background check.

Conditional Admission

An applicant with a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution may be granted conditional admission to the graduate school if the applicant does not meet clear admission requirements, but has a 2.5 to 2.99 graduate admission GPA, and provides the graduate office with a letter from the program director or program chair, signed by the dean of the college, requesting a waiver of the clear admission graduate GPA. An applicant granted conditional admission may not enroll for more than 12 graduate hours total. The student must be accepted into a graduate degree program within this 12-hour time period or future registration will be put on hold. A student with conditional admission who earns any graduate grade of less than a B will be denied further admission to the graduate school until such time that the requirements for clear admission are met. At the end of the semester in which a conditional student's graduate GPA is 3.0 or better with no grade less than a B, the student's admission classification will be changed to clear.

Transient Admission

The transient student category is designed for students who are enrolled and in good academic standing in a graduate nursing program other than the UTPA graduate nursing program. Students who obtain permission may enroll in selected courses at UTPA by:

1. Meeting basic requirements for graduate admission as a transfer student.
2. Submitting a letter of application to the Department of Nursing.
3. Obtaining consent of the instructor of the course being taught at UT Pan American.

Non-Degree Admission

The non-degree-seeking category is for those post-masters students who want to take courses, but are not working toward a degree. Non-degree students may enroll in selected courses by:

1. Submitting a Graduate Student Application for Admission Form to the Office of Graduate Studies, meeting deadlines for admission. Application for admission to the University must be submitted online; the application is available at www.utpa.edu/gradschool.
2. Submitting a letter of application to the Department of Nursing.

3. Submitting official transcripts to the Office Graduate Studies verifying a bachelor’s degree in nursing.
4. Obtaining acceptance by the Master of Science in Nursing Student Development Committee.
5. Presenting immunization records showing freedom from active tuberculosis and immunity to hepatitis B.

Students admitted under the non-degree status may write to the Master of Science in Nursing Student Development Committee and apply to the graduate program. At the time the application is reviewed, the student must have provided an official transcript, reference letters, evidence of current licensure as a registered nurse in Texas and evidence of meeting the statistics and physical assessment requirements. Furthermore, the application letter should include a petition of courses completed while under the non-degree status be credited toward the degree. A maximum of nine hours, with grades of B or better, may be proposed toward the masters degree in nursing.

Transfer Admission

Transfer admission will follow University guidelines. A maximum of nine graduate hours may be accepted following review by the MSN Student Development Committee.

International Student Admission

In addition to the University and departmental requirements for admission, the following are required:

1. A minimum score of 500 on the TOEFL. This score should be no more than two years old, but can be evaluated on an individual basis.
2. A course-by-course transcript evaluation by Foreign Credentials Service of America.
3. A license to practice nursing in the state of Texas obtained prior to admission according to Board of Nurse Examiners rules and regulations.

Requirements for MSN

The general requirements for the masters in nursing are as follows:

1. A degree plan approved by the Master of Science in Nursing Program coordinator.
2. Satisfactory completion of all courses within five years of admission.
3. Satisfactory completion of the thesis or non-thesis option.

MSN Curriculum for Adult Health Specialization

Required	Courses	31 hours
NURS	6301	Theoretical Foundations in Nursing
NURS	6302	Research in Nursing
NURS	6303	Statistics in Nursing
NURS	6304	Advanced Pathophysiology in Nursing

NURS	6305	Advanced Health Assessment
NURS	6306	Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice
NURS	6208	Nursing Informatics
NURS	6209	Professional Nursing Issues
NURS	6310	Advanced Practice: Health Promotion
NURS	6322	Advanced Adult Health II
NURS	6323	Advanced Adult Health III

Functional Role Courses 6 hours
Select one of the following sequences:

Clinical Specialist		
NURS	6341	Advanced Practice I
NURS	6342	Advanced Practice II
Educator		
NURS	6343	Educator I
NURS	6344	Educator II

Thesis Option		6 hours
NURS	7300	Thesis I (Proposal)
NURS	7301	Thesis II

Non-Thesis Option		6 hours
NURS	7302	Practice Intervention Project Graduate Elective

Program Total 43 hours

MSN Curriculum for Family Nurse Practitioner

Required Courses		45 hours
NURS	6301	Theoretical Foundations in Nursing
NURS	6302	Research in Nursing
NURS	6303	Statistics in Nursing
NURS	6304	Advanced Pathophysiology in Nursing
NURS	6305	Advanced Health Assessment
NURS	6306	Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice
NURS	6307	Health Care Policy, Organization and Financing
NURS	6208	Nursing Informatics
NURS	6209	Professional Nursing Issues
NURS	6310	Advanced Practice: Health Promotion
NURS	6311	Advanced Practice: Rural Health Nursing
NURS	6612	Advanced Practice: Family Nurse Practitioner I
NURS	6613	Advanced Practice: Family Nurse Practitioner II
NURS	6247	Role Development for the Nurse Practitioner

Thesis Option		6 hours
NURS	7300	Thesis I (Proposal)

NURS 7301 Thesis II

Non-Thesis Option 3 hours
NURS 7302 Practice Intervention Project

Program Total 48-51 hours

Course Descriptions

A listing of graduate courses offered by the Department of Nursing can be found in the Course Descriptions section of this catalog beginning on page 226.

Occupational Therapy Program

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Schultz, Celia, *Assistant Professor*
Scoggin, Angela, *Professor*
Wells, Shirley, *Associate Professor*

Mission

The Department of Occupational Therapy supports the mission of UTPA by preparing graduate-level professionals capable of meeting the challenges of health care and community environments and the unique needs of growing international and multicultural populations of the South Texas region. Faculty and students engage in and promote scholarly inquiry and service which support the health and wellness of the community. The preservation, transmission and creation of knowledge results in exemplary and caring practice. Graduates are prepared to assume the roles of lifelong learners, innovators and leaders in the state, nation and world communities.

Philosophy

Human occupation is defined as doing culturally meaningful work, play or daily living tasks in the stream of time and in the contexts of ones physical and social world (Kielhofner, 1995, p.3). The individual is served as an occupational being throughout the life space and within the context of culture. The individual is a whole being, integrating mind, body and spirit, who is inherently healthy, and lives on a continuum from wellness to disability. Occupation is essential to health and life itself.

Ones perceptions of health, illness and occupation are shaped by culture. Adaptation is fundamental to a cultures survival and adaptation through occupation is fundamental to an individuals survival. Although individuals are shaped by the culture(s) in which they were socialized, they are able to adapt to new and different cultures. The culture of individuals and communities are constantly blending, changing and evolving to create new and different environments for human beings to interact and engage in occupation.

Occupation, making lives, making worlds (Peloquin, 1997), is our primary conceptual framework. Occupation gives organization to life, provides life meaning and influences health. Occupational performance engages the whole person, is reflective of mind, body and spirit, and impacts relationships, culture and society. Life transitions may be illness, disability, retirement, moving from school to work, disasters or living through other life events. Occupational therapy addresses the complexity of human occupation when normal or satisfying occupational patterns have been disrupted. Therapist and client collaborate in setting goals that will bring meaning to everyday life for that individual and help to establish meaningful occupation. Learning to manage daily tasks such as work, play and leisure are highly individual goals and mean not only task completion, but also requiring the remaking of ones life following the transition. Thus, the individuals desired roles in life (the ability to make a living, make a home, make a family, make friends and to make a life) should become the first and primary concern of any graduate of this program. Demonstration of abilities and performance of actions, tasks and occupations are seen as the vehicle for fulfilling these roles (Christiansen & Baum, 1997).

The health of individuals within communities, such as in family-centered and client-centered care, also shapes the community. Focusing on the health issues of the community, and groups within a community, will lead to health and life satisfaction through engagement in occupation. Occupation facilitates organization of systems toward improved health for individuals and communities. Occupational therapy can help to shape community systems in such a way that the quality of life is improved for the community as a whole. For example, addressing the issue of unemployment as a common basis for homelessness, might address deficits in local policies as well as issues of social justice. The idea of occupation as explicated by the curriculum would enable patient-agents and others to receive essential services, relevant to important human issues such as survival, contribution, competence, health and the quality of daily life experiences. (Yerxa,

1998, pg 370-371). Engagement in occupations influences an individual's health and the experience of individual occupations and their blend shapes, in part, a person's perception of the quality of life (Yerxa, 1998, pg 367).

References

- Christiansen, C. & Baum, C. (1997). Person-environment occupational performance. Christiansen & C. Baum (Eds.) Occupational performance-enabling Function and Well-being. (pp 46-70). Thorofare, NJ: SLACK Incorporated.
- Kielhofner, G. (1995). A Model of Human Occupation (second edition). Baltimore, MD: Williams & Wilkins.
- Peloquin, S.M. (1997). Nationally speaking-the spiritual depth of occupation: Making worlds and making lives. American Journal of Occupational Therapy, 51, 167-169.
- Yerxa, E.J. (1998). Occupation: The keystone of a curriculum for self-defined profession. American Journal of Occupational Therapy, 52, pg. 365-372.

Admission to the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy Program

Early Admission Deadline - December 31

Final Admission Deadline - May 31

To be eligible for admission to the Master of Science program in Occupational Therapy, applicants must:

- Have a Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university. A degree in any area of study will be accepted.
- Complete all prerequisites. You may apply to the MSOT program before completing all prerequisites; however, all prerequisites must be completed by the final admission deadline. The MSOT program begins in the fall semester of each year.
- Take the Health Occupations Aptitude Examination.
- Apply for admission to the Graduate School of UT Pan American before applying to the Occupational Therapy program at www.utpa.edu/gradschool. This must be current.
- Complete the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy application online. Be sure and save your work. Once everything is complete then click the submit button. We will not receive your application until you click on submit. This must be current. If not, the application may not be considered.
- The applicant must provide three references (recommendations). Please submit online through the Graduate Office.
- The applicant must provide a Personal Statement (Statement of Purpose). Please submit online through the Graduate Office.
- Complete FERPA Consent Form

A. Graduate School Admission to MSOT

In order to be admitted to the MSOT, the student must first meet all requirements for admission to the Graduate School of UT Pan American (see page 17), as well as the other requirements listed below. Application for admission must be submitted online; the application is available at www.utpa.edu/gradschool. Please save your work until you are ready to submit. Once submitted, applicants can check the status of their applications online or by contacting the Graduate Office.

All students applying for admission to the MSOT are required to attach or request the following through their online application:

1. Three letters of recommendation. The applicant will add the recommenders to the recommendation section of the online application and they will be instructed on how to submit their recommendation online. See E below for further Instructions.
2. Personal statement (statement of purpose), See F below for further instructions.

Applicants must have a 3.0 GPA to be eligible for admission to the MSOT program.

B. Official Transcripts

An official transcript of all college and university work must be submitted directly to the UTPA, Office of Graduate Admissions.

C. Prerequisite Courses

Applicant must show evidence of satisfactory completion of the following courses. Prerequisite courses taken five years prior to the May 31 deadline will not be considered.

Anatomy & Physiology I & II (lecture & lab)	8 credit hours
Basic Statistics	3 credit hours
Psychology of Lifespan	3 credit hours
Abnormal Psychology	3 credit hours
Medical Terminology	1, 2, or 3 credit hours

- If there are questions about prerequisites, then fax or email course descriptions, word-for-word catalog description of courses, or syllabi to the OT Department. The fax number is 956/381-2471 or email at rochae@utpa.edu. Be sure to provide your contact information.

- Waiver(s): A waiver and/or substitution of any required prerequisite course may be petitioned to the Chair of the Admission Committee. You may do this by providing your contact information, forwarding a copy of the course catalog or syllabus and transcripts to the OT department. (Fax: 956-381-2476; email: rochae@utpa.edu)

D. Health Occupations Aptitude Examination

The Health Occupations Aptitude Examination assesses an individual's readiness and capability for successful completion of an educational program designed to prepare qualified health care personnel. It includes five separate tests that measure ability, skills, knowledge and attitudes important for success in the program and career, choice. Contact the University Testing Services at (956) 292-7584 for information regarding cost and availability of the examination. Study material for the exam can be found at www.psbtests.com. This exam may only be taken once per admission year.

E. Letters of Reference

Reference letters will now be submitted electronically through the online application system available via the graduate office web site (www.utpa.edu/gradschool). Please follow the instructions provided as you complete the online application.

Your references should be people who can evaluate your ability and potential for Graduate education and professional practice.

If you have graduated in the last three years, one academic reference must be submitted. Letters from college or university instructors in your major from whom you have taken courses are preferred. Letters from such instructors, which are part of a college or university placement file, may be used if they address your potential for graduate study.

For those who have been out of college for three years or more, you may submit a reference from persons who have known and worked with you in a professional capacity.

At least one reference concerning your employment or volunteer experience must be included. Appropriate recommendations include a reference from an immediate supervisor or another person to whom you have been responsible or who was familiar with your work.

Please note the statement concerning the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 that appears on the top of each form. Please read this statement carefully, choose one of the alternatives offered.

F. Personal Statement (Statement of Purpose)

Applicant must submit a 1,000 word essay **online** discussing his/her interest in occupational therapy. This essay must be typewritten, double spaced, and grammatically correct. Be sure to include your name on the cover page, and all subsequent pages. The statement must address all three parts of the questions as outlined as below:

Part I

A. Why are you seeking a graduate degree in

occupational therapy at this time? Why have you chosen to apply to the UTPA Department of Occupational Therapy?

B. What specific career goals and aspirations do you have following graduation from the Masters of Science in Occupational Therapy Program? Discuss your understanding of the occupational therapy professions, values and mission.

Part II

A. Discuss the personal, vocational, and educational experiences that have helped define your choice of occupational therapy as a field of graduate study. Include all relevant practical and volunteer experience

B. Examine your personal strengths and challenges. Explain how your personal characteristics support, inhibit, and generally influence your ability to pursue graduate study and establish a career in occupational therapy. Discuss your understanding of and experience with diverse populations (beyond the Hispanic group).

Part III

A. Discuss what you believe to be the most important current issues in health care and occupational therapy that are of interest to you and why.

G. FERPA Consent Form

The admissions committee is composed of OT faculty and OTs from the community. Please sign the consent form allowing the OTs from the community to evaluate your application. If you do not wish to release your information please indicate this on the consent form. This will not affect the evaluation of your application. Form may be downloaded from the MSOT web site at www.panam.edu/dept/occtherapy. Signed form may be faxed to 956-381-2475.

Selection and Notification Process

The Occupational Therapy Admissions Committee meets as soon as possible after the deadline to review each application. If required, the Chair of the Admission Committee notifies the applicant via phone or letter for an interview. Once selections have been made, the Department of Occupational Therapy will send written notification to all applicants indicating whether or not they have been accepted. No information regarding the status of an applicant is given over the phone. Once a selection is made, the status of your application will be available online at www.utpa.edu/gradschool.

In keeping with the UTPA policy, the Department of Occupational Therapy Admission Committee does not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, origin, sex, age, disability, veteran status, previous major of college attended.

BE ADVISED:

1. This program is a day program.
2. The MSOT application must be current. That is the application must have the year for which you are applying. A 2008 application may not be submitted for 2009. You must reapply. You may e-mail the department manager if you wish references or other information on an old application be forwarded to a new application
3. Applicants who acknowledge a felony conviction should be aware that the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) might bar persons with a felony record from taking the certification examination. The Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners (TBOTE) may deny persons with a felony record a state license to practice. For information regarding their requirements for certification following graduation, please contact:
 - National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT)
<http://www.nbcot.orQ>
 - Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners (TBOTE) <http://www.tbote.org>
4. Some personal information may need to be disclosed during the educational experience. For example, the information may be required by a clinical education site or licensing board. Prior notification will be given to the students.
5. Many fieldwork sites require criminal background checks on all people who render services at the facility including students. These sites may deny access to their facility based on the background check.
6. This program is accredited by The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE), 4720 Montgomery Lane, Bethesda, MD 20824-1220, and (301) 652-2682.

Please send all required documents not submitted online other than transcripts to:

University of Texas-Pan American
Department of Occupational Therapy
HSHE 1.130
1201 W. University Drive
Edinburg, TX 78539-2999
www.utpa.edu/gradschool

Course Descriptions

A listing of graduate courses offered by the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy Program can be found in the Course Descriptions section of this catalog beginning on page 228.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

Frank Ambriz, *Program Chair*
Health Sciences and Human Services West (HSHE)
Room 2.142
1201 W. University Drive
Edinburg, Texas 78539-2999
Telephone: 956/381-2298
Fax: 956/381-2438
E-mail: pastudies@utpa.edu
www.utpa.edu/dept/pasp

Full-time Faculty
Ambriz, Frank, MPAS, PA-C,
Department Chair,
and Assistant Clinical Professor
Baker, Willard, MMS, PA-C, *Assistant Clinical Professor*
Farooqi, Mohammed, PA-C, *Assistant Clinical Professor*
Kuhn, Lisa, MMS, PA-C,
Assistant Clinical Professor
and Academic Coordinator
Koo, Felix, M.D., Ph.D.,
Assistant Clinical Professor
and Clinical Coordinator
Tavarez, Hiram, M.D., *Medical Director*
Villarreal Jr., Elias, PA-C,
Assistant Clinical Professor
and Director of Admissions
Runyan, Jack, PA-C, Ph.D., *Assistant Clinical Professor*

General Overview

The Physician Assistant Studies Program (PASP) within the College of Health Sciences and Human Services offers a 28-month professional curriculum leading to the Master of Science degree in Physician Assistant Studies.

The Physician Assistant Studies Program is designed to empower the student the opportunity to develop the competencies necessary to practice as an assistant to the primary care physician as defined by the American Academy of Physician Assistants. The graduate will be prepared to assist the physician in multiple and complex tasks directly related to health and medical care; interviewing, examining, compiling and evaluating medical data; treatment; follow-up care; maintaining a continuity of communications and observations; and coordinating other health-related personnel. Within the defined standards, the graduate may be called upon to carry out duties and responsibilities specifically assigned to him or her. The graduate physician assistant remains directly responsible to the physician-supervisor/employer, who retains complete control over the management of the patient.

Prerequisites

Although the pre-professional course of study may be accomplished at any accredited junior college, senior college or university, it is preferred that all science courses be taken at a senior college and/or university. All prerequisite coursework must be completed by the application deadline for that year's admissions cycle. Applicants should review the Prerequisite Equivalency Sheet for their respective college at <http://www.utpa.edu/dept/pasp> for detailed course requirements tailored to their particular college and/or university. Coursework must include the following:

Course Hours

Science	
Advanced/upper-level biology	6
Organic Chemistry with lab or Biochemistry with lab	4
General Microbiology with lab	4
Anatomy and Physiology with labs	8
Math	
Statistics	3
Humanities	
General Psychology	3
Total	28

NOTE: The above prerequisites represent the minimum prerequisites courses and hours. Classes begin annually every fall semester.

The Admissions Process

Phase I The Application

In order to be admitted to the Master of Physician Assistant Studies program, the student must first meet all requirements for admission to the Graduate School of UT Pan American (see page 17), as well as the other requirements listed below. Application for admission must be submitted online; the application is available at www.utpa.edu/gradschool. Once submitted, applicants can check the status of their applications online or by contacting the Graduate Office. All applications and supporting materials are due on Dec 31 of every year.

In addition to completing the online application, each applicant must submit the following by the application deadline:

1. Copies of all transcripts and foreign evaluations
2. Shadowing Log Form(s) documenting 50 hours minimum of shadowing.

Minimum Academic Requirements for Application

1. Minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale is required in the following areas:

- All Science coursework.
- Last 60 hours of coursework.
- Overall GPA.

2. Completed bachelors degree.

3. Completed all prerequisite coursework by the application deadline.

4. Completed Foreign Degree Translation/Evaluation by the Foreign Credential Service of America at <http://www.fcsa.biz>.

Phase II Application Review

The basis for inviting an applicant for interview is competitive. It includes the applicant's academic performance represented by coursework, grades and the three CPA calculations discussed in the previous section. In addition, application review includes, but is not limited to, consideration of non academic qualifications listed below (listed in no particular order of preference or weight):

- Awards and honors
- Health care experience
- Knowledge of and commitment to the PA profession
- Leadership
- PA shadow time
- Primary care/South Texas-oriented
- Research background
- Scholastic achievements
- Service/volunteerism
- Work experience

Phase III The Interview

Admissions interviews are granted by invitation only. Applicants are selected for interviews based on a holistic evaluation of the entire application and supporting materials. Application file review occurs through the entire month of January. Approximately 70-100 applicants or more are invited for an interview during the months of February and March. Two panel interviews are required for every applicant. Typically, interviews are 15-20 minutes in duration with each panel comprised of three PASP faculty, practicing PAs and other important PASP stakeholders. Each interviewer asks questions to assess the applicants knowledge of the PA profession, motivation and commitment, maturity, intellectual curiosity, interest patterns, interpersonal skills and academic history.

Phase IV Admission

At the conclusion of all interviews, the admissions committee (comprised of the PASP faculty, medical director and representation from administration) meets to review all

applicants who were interviewed. Thirty to forty candidates are selected for admission. Additionally, applicants are selected and ranked as alternates. The number of seats offered for admission may vary from year to year.

All applicants will be sent a letter notifying them of their status.

Professional Course of Study

The professional curriculum, six semesters in length, begin each Fall:

Didactic Year	Hours
Medical Human Anatomy	3
Medical Interviewing	2
Medical Physiology & Pathophysiology I	3
Pharmacology I	3
Patient Evaluation	4
Principles of Clinical Medicine I	3
Medical Physiology & Pathophysiology II	3
Pharmacology II	2
Preventive Medicine & Community Health	2
Clinical Laboratory Methods	2
Clinical Clerkship	2
Patient Education	2
Principles of Clinical Medicine II	3
Research & Statistical Methods in Health Care	1
Studies in PA Profession	2
Evidence-Based Medicine & Medical Research Design	1
Radiology Seminar	1
Health Policy & Health Management	1
Clinical Laboratory Interpretation	1
Legal & Ethical Issues in Health Care	2
Medical Psychiatry	2
Electrocardiography Seminar	1
Introduction of Clinical Practice	1
Total Didactic Year	48
Clinical Year	Hours
Pediatric Rotation I	4
Pediatric Rotation II	4
Obstetrics & Gynecology Rotation	4
Surgery Rotation I	4
Surgery Rotation II	4
Medicine Rotation I	4
Medicine Rotation II	4
Emergency Medicine Rotation	4
Clinical Elective Rotation	4
Total Clinical Year	36
Capstone Year	Hours
Capstone Clinical Track I	4

Capstone Clinical Track II	4
Capstone Clinical Track III	4
Capstone Research Experience	2
Capstone Board Review	2
Total Capstone Year	16

Upon successful completion of academic and clinical training requirements, the student is conferred the degree of Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies.

The curriculum meets and exceeds the requirements outlined in the Essentials of an Approved Educational Program for the Assistant to the Primary Care Physician established by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant. Graduates of the program are eligible to apply for membership in the American Academy of Physician Assistants or other nationally recognized organizations representing the Physician Assistant and to sit for the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination. Successful completion of the examination leads to certification by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants and is accepted by the many states as proof of competency.

The Bridge Program

This provides an opportunity for the practicing Physician Assistant to obtain a Masters degree in the area of Physician Assistant Studies. This curriculum is a WEBCT based program that enables a practicing physician assistant with a Bachelors degree to obtain a Masters degree in Physician Assistant Studies while allowing the physician assistant to remain in their community while completing their course of study. The degree awarded at the completion of the Bridge Program will be a professional Masters degree in Physicians Assistant Studies.

While enrolled in the bridge program, students will select one of the specialty tracks designed for the Masters capstone. This will include three clinical tracks (four weeks each) and the research experience course. The board review course will be waived since graduates enrolled will have already demonstrated successful completion of the national certification exam via Texas Licensure. (Texas Licensure requires passing the PANCE before obtaining a PA license.)

Bridge Courses

The bridge program is designed to offer the previous graduates of the Bachelors physician assistant program to obtain a professional Masters degree in Physician Assistant Studies. The bridge program will be offered for the first five years following the transition of the bachelors PA program to the Masters PA program. The goal of this option is to provide an opportunity for practicing Physician Assistants to increase and enhance their medical knowledge and clinical skills. The three year offering should be sufficient time for previous graduates to enroll and complete the bridge program.

NOTE: Bridge Program Courses are only for those who have already completed a degree in physician assistant studies.

Course Descriptions

A listing of graduate courses offered by the program in Physician Assistant Studies Program can be found in the Course Descriptions section of this catalog beginning on page 177 (CLSC) and page 230 (PHAS)

Rehabilitation

Tom Shefcik, *Interim Chair*
Health Sciences and Human Services West (HSHW)
Room 1.266A
1201 W. University Drive
Edinburg, TX 78539-2999
Telephone: 956/316-7036
Fax: 956/ 318-5237
E-mail: tshefcik@utpa.edu

Dr. Eva Miller, *Masters Program Coordinator*
Health Sciences and Human Services West (HSHW)
Room 1.310
1201 West University Drive
Edinburg, TX 78541-2999
Telephone: 956/318-5270
Fax: 956/ 318-5237
E-mail: evamiller@utpa.edu

Graduate Faculty
Blankenship, Charlene, *Assistant Professor*
Chen, Roy, *Assistant Professor*
Graf, Noreen, *Associate Professor*
Hansmann, Sandra, *Assistant Professor*
Marini, Irmo, *Professor*
Miller, Eva, *Assistant Professor*
Reed, Bruce, *Professor*
Reid, Charles R., *Associate Professor*
Saladin, Shawn, *Assistant Professor*

Purpose

The Master of Science degree in Rehabilitation Counseling at The University of Texas-Pan American was designed as a direct result of the expressed need for professionally trained rehabilitation counselors in the growing Rio Grande Valley, the state of Texas, and across the nation. The degree is offered by the Department of Rehabilitation Services in the College of Health Sciences and Human Services. The program focuses on an integration of theory, skill and practice in counseling, specializing in

working with persons with disabilities. Students are prepared with the education needed to successfully function as a professional rehabilitation counselor and are required to complete a 100-hour supervised practicum and a 600-hour supervised internship to learn and practice the necessary skills to work as a professional counselor. The Masters degree is a minimum 48-semester hour program with a thesis or research grant option.

Mission and Objectives

The Master of Science degree in Rehabilitation Counseling was designed to meet a growing demand for professionally trained counselors in public and private rehabilitation agencies, mental health centers, schools, substance abuse centers, vocational rehabilitation agencies, and in medical case management. The program philosophy is to assist and empower persons with disabilities in adjusting/adapting to their vocational and personal lives.

The major objective of the Masters degree is to prepare students for a profession in rehabilitation counseling by providing classroom and experiential skills development in individual and group counseling, vocational assessment, job analysis and placement, medical and psychosocial aspects of disability, case management, research in rehabilitation, and psychiatric rehabilitation.

The Masters degree in rehabilitation counseling at UTPA is nationally accredited by the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) and adheres to the curriculum goals and objectives defined by these national standards. As such, students who successfully complete the requirements of this program are immediately eligible to sit for the certifying exam as a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC).

Additionally, students may complete the appropriate coursework needed for the Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC).

Admission to the Masters Program in Rehabilitation Counseling

In order to be admitted to the graduate program in rehabilitation counseling, prospective candidates are required to complete the following procedures:

1. Students must follow the formal procedures for application to the Office of Graduate Studies. It is the students responsibility to read the requirements regarding admission deadlines, transfer credit from other programs, conditional status entry and other pertinent information. Application for admission to the University must be submitted online; the application is available at www.utpa.edu/gradschool. Once submitted, applicants can check the status of their applications online or by contacting the Graduate Office.

2. For clear admission to study in the rehabilitation counseling program, students must have a 3.0 GPA in the last

60 hours of study.

3. Students with less than a 3.0 GPA may be granted conditional admission. Students admitted under conditional status cannot enroll for more than 12 hours of graduate study and must have no grade lower than a B to continue the following semester. If a student obtains passing grades of B or better in nine hours of graduate study with no grade less than a B, his or her status will be changed to clear admission.

4. Deadlines for graduate admission are as listed in this catalog. The deadline for the Rehabilitation Counseling Masters degree program is April 7 for summer I and fall admission and November 7 for spring admission.

Procedures for Applying to the Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling Program

In addition to the requirements for admission to Graduate School, the following information for admission to study in the Master of Science Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling must be submitted with the online application.

The deadlines for the Rehabilitation Counseling Program are November 7 for spring admission and April 7 for summer/fall admission.

Submit online a double spaced, two-page typed essay as to why you want to pursue a Masters degree in Rehabilitation Counseling and become a counselor. Applicants must include educational and career goals as well as any other pertinent personal characteristics deemed appropriate.

Submit online two recommendations, one of which should be from a professor and the second from an employer or supervisor.

Official college transcripts are to be sent to the Graduate Studies Office directly from all the institutions attended. If the applicant attended UTPA at any time, those official transcripts will be handled by the Graduate Studies Office; however, the applicant is responsible for requesting official transcripts to be sent directly from all other institution(s).

Curriculum Degree Requirements

The Master of Science in rehabilitation counseling is a 48-semester hour program. Coursework includes:

Required Courses		42 hours
REHS	6300	Introduction to Rehabilitation Foundations
REHS	6310	Case Management in Rehabilitation
REHS	6315	Research in Rehabilitation
REHS	6320	Psychosocial Aspects of Disability
REHS	6325	Group Counseling in Rehabilitation
REHS	6330	Assessment and Vocational Evaluation
REHS	6345	Medical Aspects of Disability
REHS	6350	Job Placement Theories and Methods

REHS	6360	Counseling Theories in Rehabilitation Counseling
REHS	6370	Techniques in Rehabilitation Counseling
REHS	6375	Psychiatric Rehabilitation
REHS	6390	Practicum (100 hours)
REHS	7600	Internship (600 hours)

Electives		6 hours
REHS	6380	Special Topics in Rehabilitation
REHS	7100	Independent Study
REHS	7300	Thesis
REHS	7301	Advanced Thesis
REHS	7302	Research Grant Project
REHS	7303	Advanced Research Grant Project

Other electives may be taken from a variety of supporting fields including psychology, educational psychology, social work, public administration and others with the approval of the students academic advisor.

Total		48 hours
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Required Practicum and Internship Experience

A minimum 100-hour supervised practicum and 600-hour supervised internship is required of all Masters students in Rehabilitation Counseling. This field-based practical experience provides students with the opportunity to select and work for one semester in an approved rehabilitation setting. The practicum may be taken only after completion of REHS 6360 and REHS 6370. The internship is generally completed in the students final semester. These practical experiences permit students to gain exposure working with persons with disabilities and rehabilitation professionals under the direct supervision of a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor.

Written Comprehensive Examination

All candidates for graduate degrees of the Rehabilitation Counseling Program are required to write a Comprehensive Examination covering aspects of the student's academic program.

Comprehensive Examination requirements may be satisfied in one of two ways:

1. Passing the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) Examination.
2. Passing the Department of Rehabilitation MS Comprehensive Examination.

Master's degree candidates must inform the MS Graduate Program Coordinator of their intent to write the CRC Examination or the Department of Rehabilitation MS Comprehensive Examination at the beginning of the semester they intend to write.

Students opting to take the CRC Examination can obtain information on examination dates, examination locations, study guides, and scores required to pass the examination at:

Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification
(CRCC)

1699 East Woodfield Road
Suite 300

Schaumburg, Illinois 60173

Telephone: (847) 944-1325

<http://www.crccertification.com>

Students who fail the CRC Examination will be given the option of taking the Department of Rehabilitation MS Comprehensive Examination. The Department of Rehabilitation MS Comprehensive Examination is offered three times (fall, spring and summer) each year and examination dates are posted on the Rehabilitation Counseling Program bulletin board as well as the MS Graduate Program Coordinators office door. Specific requirements for eligibility to sit for and pass the Examination are contained in the Masters degree Student Handbook.

Graduate Thesis Option

Students considering pursuing a doctoral degree and other students interested in conducting research are encouraged to complete the thesis option. Early in a students program, he or she should meet with rehabilitation counseling program graduate faculty members about mutual research interests and potential topics. The thesis entails an in-depth quantitative or qualitative research study on a topic related to rehabilitation. The thesis does not involve any formal classes, however, and generally involves two semesters of advisor-supervised independent study. Students must enroll for a minimum of six hours of thesis. Students must also orally defend their thesis upon its conclusion. A thesis handbook describing UT Pan Americans policies, guidelines and requirements must be purchased and is available at the University Bookstore.

Certification and Licensure

The Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) is a professional rehabilitation counselor who has met the educational and work experience requirements as set forth by the national standards developed by CORE. Students who intend to seek employment in the public sector with state vocational rehabilitation as well as private sector vocational rehabilitation (Workers Compensation) are strongly encouraged to obtain this credential upon completing their degree requirements. For more information contact the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) at 1699 East Woodfield Rd., Suite - 300, Schaumburg, IL 60173, (847) 944-1325. <http://www.crccertification.com>

The Texas Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors has been designated by the Texas Legislature

as the licensing body for counselors in Texas who want to pursue a career as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC). Licensing as a generic counselor with a specialty as a rehabilitation counselor is available. Any person practicing counseling activities and claiming the credentials of LPC is required by law to submit appropriate credentials for evaluation and take an examination before associate (LAC) recognition is granted. Students in UTPA Rehabilitation Counseling program can acquire the necessary academic courses to sit for the LPC exam; however, they must also complete 3,000 hours of internship or employment under the supervision of an LPC.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (Ph.D.) IN REHABILITATION COUNSELING

Dr. Irmo Marini, *Doctoral Program Coordinator*
Health Sciences and Human Services West (HSHW)

Room 1.310

1201 W. University Drive

Edinburg, TX 78539-2999

Telephone: 956/316-7035

Fax: 956/ 318-5237

E-mail: imarini@utpa.edu

Mission and Scope

The Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Counseling is a 66-hour degree program designed to meet the critical shortage of rehabilitation educators, administrators, and qualified rehabilitation counselors across the nation. The program is designed to provide students with a didactic learning experience combining theory and applied practice in advanced rehabilitation counseling. Students will acquire skills in conducting research and publication, teaching in-class and online, grant writing and grant management, and select from a variety of specialized advanced electives in rehabilitation counseling. The capstone experience in the Ph.D. will be to conduct original research by completing and successfully defending a dissertation.

Admission to the Ph.D. Program

To be considered for admission to the Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Counseling Program at UTPA, the student

must first meet all requirements for admission to the Graduate School of UT Pan American (see page 17), as well as the other requirements listed below. Application for admission must be submitted online; the application is available at www.utpa.edu/gradschool. Once submitted, applicants can check the status of their applications online or by contacting the Graduate Office.

Admission Criteria

Admission eligibility to the Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Counseling includes the following:

- A GPA of 3.25 or higher in a students graduate program .
- Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores.
- Official transcripts of all graduate course work.
- Recommendations from three former professors and/ or employers that are completed through the online Recommendation section of the application.
- At least two years of work experience with people with disabilities performed concomitantly while earning a masters degree or postgraduate experience.
- Interview with faculty regarding the applicant's personal, social and academic attributes.
- Earned graduate degree from an accredited institution in a rehabilitation counseling or a related field to rehabilitation counseling (may require foundation courses).
- Three-page double-spaced typed essay as to why you would like to obtain a Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Counseling.

All applications are reviewed by the Department of Rehabilitations graduate faculty. Deadline for application each year is March 30, and incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Successful applicants will be notified by late April.

Foundation Coursework

All students entering the Ph.D. program are required to have a Rehabilitation Counseling foundation. This foundation may be achieved by holding a Masters degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from a CORE accredited institution. Students with a masters degree in a related discipline will need any deficiency in the foundation coursework removed before the student enrolls in doctoral-level work. Students with related degrees will most likely have taken similar coursework that will be equivalent to the required foundation courses. Foundation courses include the following:

REHS	6300	Introduction to Rehabilitation Foundations
REHS	6310	Case Management in Rehabilitation
REHS	6320	Psychosocial Aspects of Disability
REHS	6325	Group Counseling in Rehabilitation

REHS	6345	Medical Aspects of Disability
REHS	6360	Counseling Theories in Rehabilitation Counseling
REHS	6370	Techniques in Rehabilitation Counseling
REHS	6375	Psychiatric Rehabilitation
REHS	6390	Practicum (100 hours)

Students with related Masters degrees will have their prior coursework evaluated to determine the foundation courses that will need to be completed.

Ph.D. Degree Requirements

The Ph.D. degree is a minimum 66-hour degree program. The precise number of hours depends on the program designed by the student and his or her program advisory committee as well as by the length of time required to complete the dissertation. The 66 hours include:

Core Courses	24 hours
Research Courses	12 hours
Dissertation	12 hours
Electives	12 hours

Coursework for the Ph.D. program is structured such that students may attend all semesters including summers if desired. For full-time students, this equates to six consecutive semesters of coursework followed by the dissertation in year three. Full-time students can graduate after a minimum of three years if they are diligent in completing their dissertation. Upon completion of substantial coursework and before beginning the formal dissertation, students must successfully pass a preliminary exam covering all relevant rehabilitation counseling coursework.

Residency Requirements

Each student must complete a residency as a full-time student consisting of a minimum of two consecutive long semesters with a minimum of nine hours in each semester.

Dissertation

The Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Counseling requires students to complete a dissertation. The manual that details University requirements for the format and submission of the dissertation are available at the Bookstore or the Graduate School web site. The student will also need to follow departmental guidelines for the development and completion of the dissertation.

Maximum Period for Completion

A student has a maximum of 10 years from the date of first entry into doctoral level courses to complete the degree. Under special circumstances, an extension for an additional year may be granted by the students Doctoral Dissertation Committee. If the student exceeds the 10-year limit, the Doctoral Dissertation Committee will determine if the student will be permitted to continue in the program and what additional coursework or activities will be required to complete the degree.

Financial Support and Assistantships

The University has limited funds available exclusively for Ph.D. students. Assistantships are made on a competitive basis. Incoming applicants requesting assistantships from the Department of Rehabilitation should submit their request with their application materials. Academic performance will be reviewed each year to ensure that the student is making satisfactory progress. The chair of the Department of Rehabilitation will make final determination regarding assistantships, and will notify continuing students of the timelines for renewing or applying for assistantships. At a minimum, the student must be in good academic standing, enrolled in nine hours or more as a graduate student during the fall and/or spring semester. The maximum amount of time allowed for assigned teaching and research duties is 20 hours per week. Students should contact UT Pan American's Student Financial Services to determine if other sources of financial aid are available. The Department of Rehabilitation may also have a limited number of competitive scholarships from the Rehabilitation Services Administration. Students are encouraged to contact the Ph.D. Program Coordinator regarding the availability of these scholarships and the payback criteria.

Course Descriptions

A listing of graduate courses offered by the program in rehabilitation counseling can be found in the Course Descriptions section of this catalog beginning on page 240.

Social Work

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Mission Statement

The Department of Social Work is committed to preparing entry-level generalist (BSWs) and advanced professional social workers (MSSWs) to meet the needs of a binational and multicultural community. The educational emphasis is on social work practice with Latino individuals and families considering multicultural awareness, professional competence, ethical practice, knowledge building acquisition, and social services that promote social and economic justice in a binational environment.

The department aims to meet the mission statement through the goals and objectives that guide the curriculum.

Program Goals and Objectives

The Department of Social Work at The University of Texas-Pan American designed its Master of Science in Social Work (MSSW) Program to meet the social service needs of the population the programs graduates will serve, and to meet the requirements of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards.

The mission of the Department of Social Work is closely bound to the mission of the University and college. The University states as part of its mission to "serve the higher

education needs of South Texas.” The College of Health Sciences and Human Services mission states “The college is committed to enhancing the quality of life and health care in the lower Rio Grande Valley binational border community and region.”

The Department of Social Work fulfills its mission through its educational programs and the delivery of social services and programs by faculty and students.

The department’s mission and the program objectives provide the rationale for the Master of Science in Social Work Program and for the course objectives and content. These program purposes are articulated in the objectives and syllabi of the specific courses offered, in orientation and admission programs, in the Graduate Catalog, admission guidelines, student handbook and field instruction manual, and in faculty advisement.

The social work master’s program seeks, as its major general objective, to prepare competent and effective social work professionals for advanced social work practice with Latino individuals and families who are guided by social work values and ethical principles.

Graduates are expected to be knowledgeable, skilled and committed to work in the economic and cultural milieu of South Texas, and to understand, relate to, and communicate with, as well as appreciate, the diverse character and culture of these people, as well as of human beings in general.

Graduates articulate and manifest a liberal arts perspective, serve disadvantaged, vulnerable and oppressed populations and advocate for conditions that ameliorate poverty, oppression, dependency, abuse, violence, social and economic injustice, and all forms of discrimination.

Graduates understand and work with varied client family groups and systems, utilizing a generalist and family-focused ecosystem, strengths perspective, with an appreciation of systemic relationships between direct practice, social welfare policies and programs. They are expected to be competent in a professional evaluation of their practice, with an instrumental degree of self-awareness. They value the importance of research in practice and can apply appropriate research findings in their practice and contribute meaningfully to research projects.

Finally, graduates provide effective social services, promote equitable social welfare policies and contribute to the advancement of social and economic justice and the development of a responsive and just society.

The curriculum of the program is designed to achieve these objectives and outcomes through departmental policies, procedures and educational programs and facilitative relationships and activities between faculty, students and the community. The curriculum also gives emphasis to the implementation of affirmative action and non-discriminatory policies and guidelines.

The objectives and curriculum content of the masters program mesh with the missions of the University, college and department which strive to educate competent graduates who are dedicated to serving residents of the Rio Grande Valley and other regions throughout Texas and the nation.

Department faculty develop knowledge through scholarship and research activities that focuses on the needs of Hispanic/Latino low-income populations in this area

and provides research instruction that helps students to contribute to such knowledge. The department prepares social work practitioners to serve this population and to serve in the public and private social welfare systems.

The MSSW Curriculum

The Master of Science in Social Work (MSSW) Program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. The master’s in social work is a 63-hour degree consisting of 33 hours of professional foundation courses and 30 hours of advanced professional social work courses.

The foundation curriculum consists of three hours of Introduction to Professional Social Work, nine hours of Generalist Social Work Practice, three hours of diversity, six hours of Human Behavior and the Social Environment, three hours of Research Design and Analysis, three hours of Social Welfare Policy, and six hours of Field Education.

The advanced social work curriculum consists of six hours of Professional Foundations, six hours of Social Work Practice with Families, three hours of Social Work Supervision, Consultation and Administration, three hours of Practice and Program Evaluation, three hours of Social Work Practice with Latinos, three hours of Advanced Assessment, three hours of an elective, and six hours of Advanced Field Education. The Professional Foundations course (SOCW 6338) is completed in the summer as the first course in the advanced standing curriculum.

In addition to full-time study, extended study options are available for the 36-hour advanced standing program and the 63-hour program. The 36-hour advanced standing program can be completed in a two-year extended study period. Similarly, the 63-hour program can be finished in three or four years of extended study.

◆Degree Plan - MSSW (63-hour Program)

Foundation Curriculum - 33 hours

SOCW 63003	Human Behavior and the Social Environment I: Individuals, Families and Small Groups
SOCW 63013	Human Behavior and the Social Environment II: Social Institutions, Communities and Organizations
SOCW 6302	3 Social Welfare Policy
SOCW 6311	3 Social Work as a Profession
SOCW 6315	3 Social Work with Diverse Populations
SOCW 6321	3 Generalist Social Work Practice I
SOCW 6322	3 Generalist Social Work Practice II
SOCW 6323	3 Generalist Social Work Practice III
SOCW 6370	3 Field Practicum
SOCW 6371	3 Field Practicum
SOCW 6381	3 Social Work Research Designs and Application
SOCW 6670	6 Field Practicum

Concentration Curriculum - 30 hours

SOCW 6330	3	Advanced Family Practice I
SOCW 6331	3	Advanced Family Practice II
SOCW 6332	3	Social Work Practice with Latinos
SOCW 6335	3	Advanced Clinical Assessment
SOCW 6376	3	Concentration Practicum
SOCW 6377	3	Concentration Practicum
SOCW 6380	3	Practice and Program Evaluation
SOCW 6395	3	Supervision, Consultation and Administration

Electives 6

◆ Degree Plan - MSSW (Advanced Standing Program - 36 hours)

SOCW 6315	3	Social Work with Diverse Populations
SOCW 6338	3	Foundations of Social Work
SOCW 6330	3	Advanced Family Practice I
SOCW 6331	3	Advanced Family Practice II
SOCW 6332	3	Social Work Practice with Latinos
SOCW 6335	3	Advanced Clinical Assessment
SOCW 6380	3	Practice and Program Evaluation
SOCW 6395	3	Supervision, Consultation and Administration
SOCW 6376	3	Concentration Practicum
SOCW 6377	3	Concentration Practicum

Electives 6

The required courses are designed to provide the student with a multicultural background, emphasizing the important social issues in family practice. The degree program, administered by the Department of Social Work, offers professional preparation for advanced social work practice. Graduates will have the opportunity to attain advanced analytical and practice skills sufficient for self-critical, accountable and autonomous practice.

The Master of Science in Social Work degree is designed to prepare its graduates for the Licensed Master of Social Work designation issued by the state of Texas and for the Academy of Certified Social Workers designation granted by the National Association of Social Workers.

Requirements for Clear Admission

In order to be admitted to the program, the student must first meet all requirements for graduate admission to UT Pan American (see page 17), as well as the other requirements listed below. Application for admission to the University must be submitted online; the application is available at www.utpa.edu/gradschool. Once submitted, applicants can check the status of their applications online or by contacting the Graduate Office.

1. A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.
2. A cumulative GPA of 2.75 or better on a 4.0 scale.
3. Successful completion of an undergraduate course in statistics within the previous five years.

Applicants must attach or request the following through their online application:

4. Three letters of recommendation from persons who can evaluate ability and potential for graduate education and professional social work practice.
5. Leadership ability, motivation, personal maturity and English writing proficiency, as demonstrated in a personal narrative statement.

NOTE: Students whose undergraduate degree is from a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) may apply to the Advanced Standing Program.

Conditional Admission

Conditional admission to the 60-hour MSSW Program may be granted to applicants who have GPAs less than 2.75 only if they are approved for probationary admission to the University graduate school.

Conditional admission will become clear admission after the first semester of graduate work is completed with a GPA of at least 3.0., with no outstanding incomplete grades.

Advanced Standing

Applicants who possess a Bachelor of Social Work degree from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) may qualify for advanced standing and receive a waiver of up to 30 hours of academic credit for professional foundation courses. The advanced standing curriculum consists of 36 hours: six hours of Professional Foundation, six hours of Social Work Practice with Families, three hours of Supervision, Consultation and Administration, three hours of Practice and Program Evaluation, three hours of Social Work Practice with Latinos, three hours of Advanced Clinical Assessment, three hours of an elective, and six hours of Advanced Field Education. Applicants who wish to be considered for advanced standing must meet the following admissions requirements:

1. Clear admission to graduate study at UT Pan American.
2. GPA of 3.2 or higher on a 4.0 scale in core undergraduate courses.

Admission Committee Review

All applications will be reviewed by the Department of Social Work MSSW Program Admissions Committee. The committee is responsible for the selection of the individuals who are admitted into the master's in social work degree program.

Course Descriptions

A listing of graduate courses offered by the Department of Social Work can be found in the Course Descriptions section of this catalog beginning on page 245.