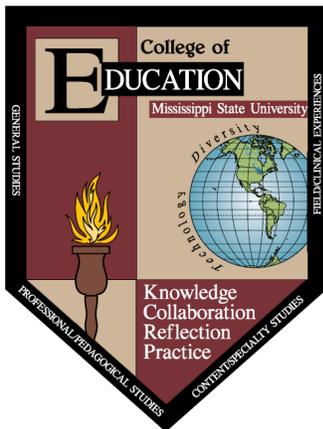


**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

**DEPARTMENT of COUNSELING and EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Course Prefix & Number:	COE 8293
Course Title:	Special Project in Rehabilitation of Persons who are Visually Impaired
Credit hours:	Three (3) semester hours
Type of Course:	Field Experience
Catalog Description:	Supervised Project (Prerequisite: Consent of the department) Study of a topic in counseling or student development.

College of Education Conceptual Framework:



The faculty in the College of Education at Mississippi State University are committed to assuring the success of students and graduates by providing superior learning opportunities that are continually improved as society, schools, and technology change. The organizing theme for the conceptual framework for the College of Education at Mississippi State University is educational professionals - dedicated to continual improvement of all students' educational experiences. The beliefs that guide program development are as follows:

1. **KNOWLEDGE** - Educational professionals must have a deep understanding of the organizing concepts, processes, and attitudes that comprise their chosen disciplinary knowledge base, the pedagogical knowledge base, and the pedagogical content knowledge base. They must also know how to complement these knowledge bases with the appropriate use of technology.
2. **COLLABORATION** - Educational professionals must continually seek opportunities to work together, learn from one another, forge partnerships, and assume positions of responsibility.
3. **REFLECTION** - Educational professionals must be willing to assess their own strengths and weaknesses through reflection. They must also possess the skills, behaviors, and attitudes necessary to learn, change, and grow as life-long learners.
4. **PRACTICE** - Educational professionals must have a rich repertoire of research-based strategies for instruction, assessment, and the use of technologies. They must be able to focus that array of skills on promoting authentic learning by all students or clients, while exhibiting an appreciation and commitment to the value and role of diversity.

Course Description:

The Special Project involves 100 hours of practical experience in working with people with vision disabilities. The site may include any number of agencies that serve people with vision disabilities. A number of activities with blind or visually disabled people will constitute fulfillment of the project such as individual or group counseling (supervised), evaluation or assessment of consumers (under appropriate supervision), job placement activities, or assistance with other job readiness activities. Other activities of the particular site will be considered appropriate for this project.

Course Objectives:

1. Student will observe a trained and certified professional providing services to consumers with vision impairments in a natural work setting. (CFPO 3, 4)
2. Student will gain practical knowledge of how to best serve persons with vision impairments. (CFPO 3)
3. Student will have supervised opportunities to work directly with consumers and utilize the knowledge gained in the class. (CFPO 1)
4. The student will learn about the mechanics of the Rehabilitation Team through involvement in consumer staffings. (CFPO 1)
5. Student will be able to identify strengths and weaknesses in agency service delivery programs. (CFPO 4)
6. Student will have their skills constructively assessed in a natural environment by a competent professional. (CFPO 3, 5)
7. The student will know, understand, and practice the CRC Code of Ethics. (CFPO 1)
8. The student will apply concepts learned in the courses of the certificate program to enhance their effectiveness in working with consumers with vision impairments. Concepts to be applied include:
 - Counseling consumers in their adjustment to vision loss
 - Career Counseling
 - Job Readiness Skills
 - Developing an Assistive Technology plan for a consumer
 - Identifying resources that will assist consumers in their ability to leave and function independently

Topics Covered in the Course:

- CRC Code of Ethics (4 hrs.)
- Intake of new consumers (4 hrs.)
- Application of Counseling Techniques for Adjustment Counseling (including ADL) (8 hrs.)
- Developing an Individualized Employment Plan (4 hrs.)
- Career Counseling (4 hrs.)
- Developing Job Readiness Skills (3 hrs.)
- Developing Assistive Technology Plan (2 hrs.)
- Identification of resources useful to Consumer (4 hrs.)

- Employer contacts and job development (2 hrs.)
- Learning and understanding organization (3 hrs.)
- Supervisory sessions (4 hrs.)
- In addition to agency activities, it is expected that students will spend time on the Class Discussion Group (3 hrs.)

Texts:

LeJeune, B.J. (2012). *Practicum manual: A guide for graduate students and practicum supervisors in rehabilitation counseling*. NRTC Monograph.

Moore, J.E., Graves, W.H., & Patterson, J.B. (1997). *Foundations of rehabilitation counseling with persons who are blind or visually impaired*. New York: AFB Press.

CRC Code of Ethics at www.crccertification.com/pages/crc_ccrc_code_of_ethics/10.php .

Supplemental Notebook of Information provided by the NRTC.

All required forms are available on-line.

Methods of Instruction:

Supervisory Sessions, Discussion, and Field Experience

Suggested Student Activities:

- Agency impression paper (Objective 5)
- Review of the CRC Code of Ethics (Objective 7)
- Participate in individual and group counseling sessions (Objective 1 & 3)
- Develop an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)(Objective 4 & 8)

Honor Code:

The academic honesty policies of Mississippi State University will be adhered to in this class. Grades earned by dishonest means devalue those earned by other students. It is important that students are aware of and adhere to the University’s policy on academic integrity. Academic dishonesty involves acts that may undermine or compromise the integrity of the educational process. All tests and quizzes are to be done without the use of supplementary materials or assistance unless otherwise stated. The MSU Honor Code is as follows:

“As a Mississippi State University student I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do.”

For more information you may go to <http://www.honorcode.msstate.edu/>. For some assignments, you may be asked to sign an honor code pledge.

Technology:

You will need a PC or Mac computer with access to high speed internet. Your computer browser must be supported and configured properly for MyCourses using the Check Browser feature. Most of the problems you will encounter will be corrected if you do this before the class starts. It is recommended that you have at least Windows 7 for your PC, although XP may work. The university is no longer supporting XP, so there may be occasional problems. Common recommendations for browsers are FireFox 7.01, Chrome 31.0 and Internet Explorer 9.0 or better for your PC and the latest version of Safari for your Mac. Unfortunately some functions work better with different browsers, so you may want to have at least two browsers available for use on your PC. Additionally you will need the following:

1. Quicktime player can be downloaded at <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>
2. Adobe Acrobat (if you use a screen reader, you may need the full program)
3. If you will be accessing the program from a state employment site, pre-check your firewall clearances to be sure you can freely surf the web and download materials and accept email attachments.

Your computer will be used for producing and turning in assignments, participating in on-line discussions, and researching materials in the MSU Library and on the Internet.

Diversity:

The content of this course directly addresses the employment needs of persons who are blind and visually impaired, including those with additional disabling conditions such as diabetes or deafblindness. It also gives student the opportunity to assess the agencies who serve them.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Students needing special accommodations because of a disability have the responsibility for making the instructor(s) aware of their specific needs. Students with disabilities documented by the Office of Student Support Services (325-3335) will be accommodated. The instructor(s) will gladly make reasonable and appropriate accommodations. Accommodations include, but are not limited to testing accommodations and access to printed materials.

Field Component:

This is a field based course and one third of the student's grade is from a field supervisor.

Evaluation of Student Progress:**Requirements:**

At least 100 hours of practical experience which includes:

- 50 hours with consumers who have vision disabilities
- Completion of an impression/information paper
- Regular supervisory meetings with field supervisor
- Completion of a weekly log documenting how time was used and initialed by supervisor.
- Participation in on-line discussions

Grading:

The supervising agency will be asked to submit an assessment and grade regarding the student's performance. The grade will be based on professional behavior, interpersonal skills, reliability, and general attitude. If necessary, the university supervisor will consult with the agency supervisor regarding the recommended grade. (150 points)

The university supervisor will issue a field experience grade (150 points) based on the following information:

- Completion of the student log and Content Topic checklist (20 points)
- Overall impression based on individual student contacts - based on email and telephone conversations. (20 points)
- CRC Code of Ethics Quiz (30 points) Please find the CRC Code at http://www.crccertification.com/pages/crc_ccrc_code_of_ethics/10.php.
- Discussion group participation. See grading rubric for details on grading (3 topics at 20 points each = 60 points)

The university supervisor will grade the impression/information paper. (150 points)

The final grade in the course will be: 33% agency recommendation, 33% materials collected by university supervisor, and 33% impression/information paper.

○ Impression Paper	150 Points
○ Agency Supervisor's recom.	150 Points
○ University Supervisor's recom.	150 Points
▪ 20 points Course logs	
▪ 20 points Content Topic Checklist	
▪ 30 points for Quiz on Code of Ethics	
▪ 20 point Supervisor Evaluation	
▪ 60 points discussion group	
Total:	450 Points

Grading Scale:

A = 418.5 - 450

B = 396-418

C = 364.5 – 395

D = 333 – 364

F = < 333

Supervision:

Supervising Agency

The supervising agency will provide one hour of individual supervision or instruction per week, which may include making assignments or supervising a particular activity with a consumer. This supervision should be performed by a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) and an appropriate service level supervisor. If possible an additional one hour per week should be spent

in group supervision, which includes such activities as staff meetings and client staffings. The trainee is expected to spend 50 hours of the special project time in contact with people with vision disabilities. This time may include counseling, evaluation, observation, recreation, or other activities ordinarily provided by the special project site. In the event that the 100 hours are completed without 50 hours of client contact, the student will need to continue the special project until 50 hours are spent with clients.

University Supervision

University supervision of the student is provided by Ms. BJ LeJeune, M.Ed., CRC, of the RRTC. It is the responsibility of the student to contact Ms. LeJeune by phone (662/325-2001) or email bjlejeune@colled.msstate.edu should any problem related to the student's performance arise. The supervising agency is also encouraged to call regarding the student's performance.

Impression/Information Paper:

This paper should be approximately 8-10 typed pages in length, double-spaced. Please see rubric for how this will be evaluated. The paper should be in APA style and address the following issues in a comprehensive manner:

- What is the stated purpose of the agency?
- Who provides funding?
- What services are provided to consumers?
- What is your impression of the strengths of the agency?
- What ways do you see that service to consumers could be improved?
- How would you rate the role and function of Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors serving persons who are blind or visually impaired within the agency?

The paper may be e-mailed or submitted through MyCourses but should arrive on or before that date. See Paper Rubric for grading criteria.