

Preparing for the Comprehensive Examination, Spring 2005
Rehabilitation Counseling Program, California State University, Fresno

Note: The following will be discussed during the comps review session on Monday, March 28th from 10 to 11am in ED 342

- The comprehensive examination consists of two parts. Part I is a 125 item objective exam, consisting of 56 multiple choice, 56 true/false, and 13 case study questions. Part II requires the writing of four essay questions.
- Part I (the objective test items) is passed by getting 70% of the items correct. The 125 items consist of 17 questions each from the following content areas: a) counseling, b) psychosocial aspects, c) medical aspects, d) job placement, e) foundations of rehabilitation counseling, f) ethics, and g) assessment. Also, there are 6 questions in total that correspond to the substance abuse and assistive technology courses.
- Part II (the essay exam items) draws from the same content areas that comprise the objective test. To pass this part of the exam, you need to have a total average score of 3.5 points (out of a 5 point scale) for the four questions. Also, you will need to cite authors and the years of their publications for different content areas. For example, if discussing Gestalt Therapy, you could cite (Corey, 2001) in an answer. You do not need to complete a reference page. **REMEMBER: THE FIRST TWO ESSAY QUESTIONS ARE MANDATORY.**
- You will have a total of 4 hours to complete both parts of the exam.

Content Areas to Study

- Theory of personality, nature of maladjustment, and counseling techniques with Client-Centered, Cognitive-Behavior Therapy, Existential, Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy, Gestalt Therapy, Behavior Therapy, Reality Therapy, and Adlerian Therapy.
- History of rehabilitation counseling as a profession
- History of service approaches toward persons with disabilities
- Content areas covered in the Rehabilitation Counseling Code of Ethics
- Major legislation and policy developments that has impacted the State/Federal Vocational Rehabilitation system, such as the Rehabilitation Act Amendments
- The Americans With Disabilities Act
- Family caregiving for persons with disabilities

- Family Systems Theory
- Achievement, aptitude, intelligence, work samples, and neuropsychological testing; situational assessments and conducting intake interviews
- Roles and functions of rehabilitation counselors
- Principles underlining the Rehabilitation Counselor Code of Ethics
- Perceptions of rehabilitation counselors within and outside the profession
- Stress management and burnout
- Job classification systems (e.g., the Dictionary of Occupational Titles)
- Etiologies and intervention approaches for the physical and mental disabilities and illnesses discussed in the Medical Aspects of Disabilities courses
- Validity and reliability
- Statistical concepts (e.g., normal curve, percentile ranks, standard scores, etc.)
- Adjustment to disability concepts and stage models
- General counseling concepts and skills (e.g., understanding nonverbal behavior)
- Disability related programs and funding sources
- Drug types and addiction
- Types of job placement approaches
- Social attitudes toward persons with disabilities
- Rehabilitation counseling organizations
- Confidentiality and client rights
- Types and uses of assistive technology among persons with disabilities
- The Independent Living Movement
- Work adjustment and career development theories

- Classification of disabilities
- Legal liability for rehabilitation counselors

General study suggestions

- The comps will test on material you have gone over in your classes in lectures, reading, discussions, or handouts
- There is a lot of material to review so make sure you have allotted sufficient time to review the above information – do not wait until the last few days to prepare
- To get a sense of what material your instructors have determined be most important review in particular your exams, written assignments, and assigned readings.
- Check out the following website from the University of South Florida that presents a study guide to prepare for the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor exam. This material will cover many of the concepts in the comps:
<http://luna.cas.usf.edu/~rasch/areas.html>

GOOD LUCK!