

Long-Term training grant opportunities are currently available for CRMH students in the form of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Scholarship, providing scholars \$5,000 of tuition support per semester. The scope of these grants is to provide tuition support and extracurricular training opportunities for students to acquire the knowledge, skills, and qualifications necessary to work directly with state vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies, or with a related agency that has a contract with VR. The VR program serves youth and adults with disabilities in achieving competitive integrated employment outcomes and independent living. These grants are funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Rehabilitation Services Administration (OSERS/RSA). Upon program completion, RSA scholarship recipients will (a) demonstrate advanced training and competencies in evidence-based practices in the rehabilitation of individuals with different disabilities, including mental illness and/or developmental disabilities; (b) be readily available to fill current and emerging employment needs in VR and affiliated agencies at state, regional and national levels; (c) use their training to help consumers with disabilities access high quality employment in the 21st century global economy and become successful in their communities; (d) meet all applicable certification standards, and (e) be optimally trained in VR competencies and skills, including multicultural counseling competencies to serve clients from diverse backgrounds. For every year an RSA Scholar receives the scholarship, there is a 2-year "payback" requirement to work either at a VR agency or a related agency. As a state/federal program, VR offices and their related agencies can be found across the U.S.

The RSA scholarship packet includes tuition support of \$5,000 per semester (total of \$20,000 for 2-years) plus additional training benefits. Scholars also complete specialty coursework beyond the Standard Psychiatric Disability Track or Dual Track Curriculum in areas such as Individual Placement and Support (IPS), Tenancy Supports, and Motivational Interviewing in Substance Use and Co-Occurring Disorders Treatment (courses completed through the Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health) depending on which grant the scholar is on. Scholars also connect with VR Counselors through visits to VR Offices across the state, learn about and visit different programs and operations (e.g., DVRS Assistive Technology Lab) of urban and rural VR offices, and can attend the NCRA state rehabilitation conference. Scholars on the General Rehabilitation Counseling grant have funding to take the CRC Exam and can work as a HEELS Prep Career Coach working with young adults with developmental disabilities as a pre-service learning activity. Both grants offer graduate assistant (GA) positions for eligible RSA Scholars.

Accepted students receive the RSA Scholarship Application as part of their admission documents. If you are interested in these scholarship, please contact Dr. Dara Chan at [dchan@med.unc.edu](mailto:dchan@med.unc.edu) or Dr. Eniko Rak at [eniko\\_rak@med.unc.edu](mailto:eniko_rak@med.unc.edu)