

# Preface



The purpose of this text is to provide both a basic foundation for students beginning their journey into the profession of rehabilitation counseling and a broad-based reference for current practitioners. The contents provide a conceptual overview of the profession, history, theory, research, and applied foundations of rehabilitation counseling. The information presented will illuminate contemporary practices and issues, as well as point out possible future directions. The value of this book, however, will be determined by the degree to which it inspires the reader to seek further knowledge and skills. Rehabilitation counseling is an evolving profession that depends on the commitment of rehabilitation students and practitioners to embrace their professional responsibility to empower people with disabilities through ethical counseling practices, conveying information on rehabilitation services to facilitate positive growth and development among service consumers, and advancing the welfare of consumers through applying cutting-edge research to professional practice.

The expansion of settings in which rehabilitation counselors work and the increasing diversity of individuals with disabilities who are served by rehabilitation counselors, as well as the increased number of rehabilitation counselors needed over the next 7 years (14–19%), continue to make rehabilitation counseling an exciting and meaningful profession. For students, this book provides an overview of essential topics that are included in most graduate rehabilitation counseling curricula. We hope the foundation material covered in this text will create enthusiasm for more in-depth study of the topics covered as students progress through their programs of study. For practitioners, this book will serve as a useful reference, as you face unique situations in the provision of rehabilitation services. Most of the chapters provide Internet sites that can be quickly researched for updated information on laws, information on disabilities, and counseling strategies. We hope that this fifth edition conveys the passion and commitment that we and our contributors possess for the amazing profession to which we have dedicated our lives and in which we have been honored to work with so many outstanding colleagues and incredible consumers of rehabilitation services.

This edition reflects major changes in the field of rehabilitation counseling and consequently represents a substantial revision of the previous edition. All chapters have been revised and updated. Examples of changes include coverage of the 2010 Code of Ethics for Professional Rehabilitation Counselors; the 2009 Americans with Disabilities Amendment Act; developmental issues that arise in counseling individuals over the life span, with an emphasis on culture and sexual orientation; quality-of-life models of adaptation to disability, with increased emphasis on intervention strategies to facilitate adaptation; new service delivery models for career development and job placement; and additional information on quantitative and qualitative research design. We believe these changes will help students and practicing professionals in their efforts to keep their knowledge base current.

Interacting with colleagues in planning, developing, and writing this book has been invigorating, and editing five editions of it has been an exceptional opportunity for us. We trust

readers will recognize the collective excellence of the contributors to this volume, which is dedicated to those contributors, who continue to amaze us with their knowledge of the field.

We wish to recognize the contributions of our colleagues, students, and families for their support during the writing and editing of this book. Special thanks are due to Donald Hammill for his kind mentoring and friendship. We are extremely grateful to Kathy Synatschk, Beth Rowan, and the PRO-ED production staff, who deserve recognition for their expertise and patience in bringing this book to fruition. Above all, we acknowledge our spouses' love, support, and tolerance of the hours we have spent with our computers.