

REHABILITATION PSYCHOLOGY, BS

WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

UW–Madison’s vision for the total student experience, the Wisconsin Experience (<https://wisconsinexperience.wisc.edu/about/>), combines learning in and out of the classroom. Tied to the Wisconsin Idea (<https://www.wisc.edu/wisconsin-idea/>) and steeped in long-standing institutional values – the commitment to the truth, shared participation in decision-making, and service to local and global communities – the Wisconsin Experience describes how students develop and integrate these core values across their educational experience.

UW–Madison encourages students to mindfully engage in four core concepts throughout their time on campus: Empathy & Humility, Relentless Curiosity, Intellectual Confidence, and Purposeful Action (<https://wisconsinexperience.wisc.edu/intellectual-confidence/>).

Since its inception, the School of Education has embraced the concepts of the Wisconsin Experience, providing opportunities for students to learn in venues beyond the traditional classroom. Our students also independently seek out related activities and experiences, thus creating their own unique Wisconsin Experience.

REHABILITATION PSYCHOLOGY AND THE WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Research

Each year, students in the major have the exciting opportunity to engage in hands-on learning beyond the classroom by collaborating with faculty and graduate students on research in rehabilitation psychology. Students may contribute to ongoing research projects or receive guidance as they design and launch their own initiatives. The annual Undergraduate Research Symposium offers students a chance to showcase their work, fostering valuable experience in presenting research to the broader community.

Community-Based Learning

RP & SE 300 Individuals with Disabilities includes a dynamic field-based component where students gain real-world experience working directly with individuals with disabilities. Hundreds of students are placed annually in diverse community settings across the Madison area. This immersive experience helps students gain invaluable, first-hand knowledge of the services provided to individuals with disabilities.

Guest Speakers

The Rehabilitation Psychology major prioritizes hosting guest speakers in the classroom. These experts share their diverse perspectives on the daily experiences of individuals with disabilities. Students also hear directly from the various community organizations that advocate for and support individuals with disabilities.

Internships

Rehabilitation Psychology majors are required to complete 240 hours of internship in the community, giving them the chance to apply classroom knowledge in real-world settings. These internships allow students to immerse themselves in a variety of environments that support

people with disabilities, providing hands-on experience in their specific areas of interest. This valuable opportunity allows students to gain experience putting their major to work in the field, while also giving them opportunities to explore future career paths.

Clubs and Organizations

Students actively participate in a wide range of extracurricular clubs and organizations that offer opportunities to learn and grow outside the classroom. Popular options include Badgers for Special Olympics, Best Buddies, Leadership in Adapted Fitness, and Camp Kesem. These clubs foster leadership, advocacy, and service, creating avenues for students to develop skills while making a positive impact in the community.

Study Abroad

Rehabilitation Psychology majors also have the opportunity to broaden their perspectives through study abroad programs. The Department of Rehabilitation Psychology and Special Education hosts a short-term, faculty-led summer study abroad course, Disability Access and Rights in Australia (<https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/program/?programId=330353>). This unique opportunity allows students to earn credit in their major while gaining a global perspective on disability access and rights.

Community Employment

The Department of Rehabilitation Psychology and Special Education, in conjunction with the School of Education’s Career Center (<https://careercenter.education.wisc.edu/>), frequently connects students with part-time employment opportunities in the community. These positions allow students to gain valuable work experience while supporting local agencies or private individuals. This real-world experience further strengthens their understanding of the field and helps them develop the practical skills needed for future careers.