Physical Therapy

Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Sciences, B.S.

Program Director: Christopher Hurt, PhD

The central mission of the Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science undergraduate major is to provide a vibrant student body with a diverse educational background toward maximizing academic, commercial and/or government employment opportunities. The Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science major provides focus on disability inclusion science as well as prevention, health promotion, and wellness integrated across the entire curriculum. Our focus on disability inclusion science will prepare our graduates to be advocates for individuals with disability and chronic conditions. Our focus on prevention, health promotion and wellness will prepare our graduates to empower individuals with disability and chronic disease/s to lead healthier lifestyles. The Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science curriculum prepares students for direct entry into rehabilitation-related professions such as therapeutic recreation, rehabilitation through health promotion or community health as well as health related professional degrees such as physical/occupational therapy or research related graduate degrees centered around rehabilitation science.

Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science program leverages the significant expertise of faculty in the Department of Physical Therapy as well as throughout the UAB campus in disability studies, mobility, health promotion, and continuum and transitional care. Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science program builds on the clinical practices and research strengths of our highly ranked Doctorate of Physical Therapy program. Students in the Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science program will have a strong academic foundation as well as opportunities to be exposed to clinical and research related programming through seminars and educational activities through the Center for Engagement in Disability Health and Rehabilitation Sciences and other UAB Research Centers including the Center for Exercise Medicine, Integrated Center for Aging Research, and the Center for Clinical and Translational Science, for example.

Program Admission

The UAB Office of Undergraduate Admissions accepts applications to the Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science program at any time. Students may begin the program at the start of any full academic term. Information and the online application for freshman, transfer, returning, and non-traditional admissions is available at https://www.uab.edu/students/admissions/apply.

- Students intending to enroll in the Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science program must meet all undergraduate admission and academic requirements for UAB and the School of Health Professions.
- Entering freshmen are admitted directly to the Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science program through the UAB Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Admission to the program from high school requires graduation from an accredited high school with a grade point average (GPA) of 2.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale. Transfer admissions from another college or university and UAB students changing their declared major to Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science must have an overall GPA of 2.75 or higher and an institutional GPA of 2.75 or higher, if applicable.

Academic Requirements

The minimum overall and institutional GPA required for admission to the program (2.75) must be maintained for continued enrollment throughout the program. A student whose GPA falls below the minimum will be allowed two semesters to recover before dismissal from the major. A student who is dismissed from the Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science major in such a manner may reapply once the student has raised his or her overall and institutional GPA to the program or track minimum. A letter grade of C or higher is required for each course in the program curriculum.

Requirements		Hours
Required Blazer Core Curriculum Coursework [1]		41
Required Coursework for the Degree		
BY 115	Human Anatomy	4
BY 116	Introductory Human Physiology	4
BY 123	Introductory Biology I	4
BY 123L	Introductory Biology I Laboratory	0
BY 124	Introductory Biology II	4
HRP 101	Experience the University Transition	2
MA 106	Pre-Calculus Trigonometry	3
PY 212	Developmental Psychology	3
CH 115	General Chemistry I	3
CH 116	General Chemistry I Laboratory	1
CH 117	General Chemistry II	3
CH 118	General Chemistry II Laboratory	1
MA 180	Introduction to Statistics	3
PH 201	College Physics I	4
PH 201L	College Physics Laboratory I	0
PH 202	College Physics II	4
PH 202L	College Physics Laboratory II	0
HCM 350	Medical Terminology for Health Professionals	3
RHB 210	Introduction to Rehabilitation Science	3
RHB 220	Rehabilitation and Healthcare in the US	3
RHB 320	Environmental and Community Considerations of Mobility	3
RHB 330	Adapted Mobility and Exercise Interventions	3
RHB 340	Living with Disability	3
RHB 360	Scientific Inquiry	3
RHB 370	Tests and Measures in Rehabilitation Science	3
RHB 410	Aging in the Community	3
RHB 430	Current Trends in Rehabilitation Science	3
RHB 460	Leadership/Lifelong Learning and Rehabilitation Science	3
RHB 490	Quantitative Biomechanics of Injury and Rehabilitation	3
RHB 495	Senior Capstone for Rehabilitation Science	5
Major Electives [2]		**8**
Minimum requirement of 120 hours to complete the degree		
Total Hours		**133**

[1] Blazer Core Curriculum consists of 41 credit hours (some core course requirements are reflected in the required prerequisite coursework).

[2] In consultation with program faculty and advisors, based on a student's career/educational goals, 8 hours of elective courses may be taken to complete the degree. This will allow students to tailor their educational experience by adding a minor or participating in SHP Honors or SHP

Undergraduate Research experiences and certificates. Certain minors may require credit hours that will exceed 8, such as the minor in Community Health.

Contact Information:

For more information about the Bachelor of Science in Disability and Rehabilitation Science, please contact:

Telephone (205) 934-3566

Bachelor of Science in Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science

Approved April 14, 2023

Requirements		Hours
Blazer Core Curriculum		**41**
MA 106	Pre-Calculus Trigonometry	
BY 123	Introductory Biology I	
PH 201 & 201L	College Physics I and College Physics Laboratory I	
Lower Level		
BY 115	Human Anatomy	4
BY 116	Introductory Human Physiology	4
BY 124	Introductory Biology II	4
CH 115 & CH 116	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry I Laboratory	4
CH 117 & CH 118	General Chemistry II and General Chemistry II Laboratory	4
HCM 350	Medical Terminology for Health Professionals	3
PH 202 & 202L	College Physics II and College Physics Laboratory II	4
MA 180	Introduction to Statistics	3
HRP 101	Experience the University Transition	3
Major Coursework		
RHB 210	Introduction to Rehabilitation Science	3
RHB 490	Quantitative Biomechanics of Injury and Rehabilitation	3
RHB 220	Rehabilitation and Healthcare in the US	3
RHB 340	Living with Disability	3
RHB 430	Current Trends in Rehabilitation Science	3
RHB 410	Aging in the Community	3
RHB 370	Tests and Measures in Rehabilitation Science	3
RHB 330	Adapted Mobility and Exercise Interventions	3
RHB 320	Environmental and Community Considerations of Mobility	3
RHB 360	Scientific Inquiry	3
RHB 460	Leadership/Lifelong Learning and Rehabilitation Science	3
RHB 495	Senior Capstone for Rehabilitation Science	5
General Electives		**8**
Total Hours		**120**

Courses

RHB 210. Introduction to Rehabilitation Science. 3 Hours.
Encapsulating science from the level of the cell and body structure to the person, family, community and society level, rehabilitation science serves as a foundation and the body of knowledge by which individuals may develop and evaluate current and emerging approaches to enhancing enablement and minimizing disability.

RHB 220. Rehabilitation and Healthcare in the US. 3 Hours.
Overview of history of rehabilitation and healthcare in the United States; impact of societal events and factors on the evolution of US healthcare; growth of specific health disciplines that contribute to or support rehabilitation healthcare teams.

RHB 320. Environmental and Community Considerations of Mobility. 3 Hours.
Factors that promote and hinder mobility for individuals with chronic disease and disability; issues concerning accessibility, safety, transportation, and occupation; resources, services, legal rights and policy issues that promote mobility. Course will include observational experiences in the community.

RHB 330. Adapted Mobility and Exercise Interventions. 3 Hours.
Health benefits of physical activity for people with disabilities; evidence-based exercise prescription, including strengthening, aerobic, and balance training; theory-driven physical activity promotion including behavioral coaching and intervention strategies to overcome barriers and support success.
Prerequisites: BY 115 [Min Grade: C] and BY 116 [Min Grade: C] and RHB 210 [Min Grade: C]

RHB 340. Living with Disability. 3 Hours.
Psychosocial and health issues faced by individuals with disabilities; individual and societal views of people with disabilities; historical and current trends concerning disability rights. Resources, services, legal rights, and policy issues for people with disability that promote health, equity and inclusion.

RHB 360. Scientific Inquiry. 3 Hours.
Nature of research and application of the scientific approach to rehabilitation science topics; research design and method, interpretation of research findings and ethical considerations.
Prerequisites: MA 180 [Min Grade: C](Can be taken Concurrently) and RHB 210 [Min Grade: C]

RHB 370. Tests and Measures in Rehabilitation Science. 3 Hours.
Introduction to and application of tests and measures used to assess rehabilitation needs and outcomes related to body function and structure, activities, and participation, and physical, mental, and social issues; measurement theory and psychometric qualities.
Prerequisites: BY 115 [Min Grade: C] and BY 116 [Min Grade: C] and RHB 210 [Min Grade: C]

RHB 400. Introduction to Rehabilitation Science. 3 Hours.
Encapsulating science from the level of the cell and body structure to the person, family, community and society level, rehabilitation science serves as a foundation and the body of knowledge by which individuals may develop and evaluate current and emerging approaches to enhancing enablement and minimizing disability.

RHB 410. Aging in the Community. 3 Hours.
Overview of aging-related challenges to healthy living and function; individual and societal views of older adults along with historical and current trends concerning their rights. Principles for optimal aging including physical activity, nutrition, social function, and accessibility. Resources, services, legal rights and policy issues for older adults that promote health, equity and inclusion.
Prerequisites: RHB 320 [Min Grade: C] and RHB 330 [Min Grade: C]

RHB 430. Current Trends in Rehabilitation Science. 3 Hours.
Seminar course using speakers from within and outside of UAB will examine current issues/topics influencing rehabilitation science.

RHB 460. Leadership/Lifelong Learning and Rehabilitation Science. 3 Hours.
Personal leadership skills that target leading oneself, leading others, and leading change; effective self-directed skills for lifelong learning.
Prerequisites: RHB 210 [Min Grade: C]

RHB 475. Special Topics in Rehabilitation Sciences. 1-4 Hour.
Special Topics in Rehabilitation Sciences.

RHB 478. Special Topics in Rehabilitation Science. 1-4 Hour.
Exploration of current issues in Rehabilitation Science.

RHB 490. Quantitative Biomechanics of Injury and Rehabilitation. 3 Hours.
Material, mechanical, electrophysiological and energetic principles of human movement. Students will learn about the healthy non-impaired system and compare to systems impaired by injury or disability.

RHB 495. Senior Capstone for Rehabilitation Science. 5 Hours.
This course summarizes, evaluates, and integrates coursework completed by students to assure optimal application in future employment and/or graduate studies, with content tailored to students' personal career plans and goals. Students engage in group and independent educational activities.