

REHABILITATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, B.S. (ABINGTON)

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Abington

Career Paths

Demand for Rehabilitation and Human Services (RHS) graduates is strong because the major prepares students with the knowledge and applied helping skills needed to support individuals with disabilities and other populations served in human service systems. The program emphasizes disability, behavioral health, community-based services, and rehabilitation support across the lifespan. RHS students develop the professional competencies needed to promote independence, access to services, and improved quality of life for individuals and communities.

RHS students can tailor their degree to align with career interests through minors, experiential learning opportunities, and internships in rehabilitation and human service settings. The Addictions and Recovery minor, for example, provides specialized preparation for careers in behavioral health and recovery services and aligns with training requirements for the Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC) credential.

RHS students complete a professional internship experience designed to enhance their qualifications and prepare them for careers in human service professions. Through supervised field placements, students gain hands-on experience supporting individuals with disabilities and other populations served by community agencies.

The RHS internship sequence includes:

- A professional development and internship preparation course to help students explore career interests, develop professional materials, and secure competitive internship placements; and
- A supervised internship experience in rehabilitation and human service agencies where students apply helping skills in real-world practice.

Through these experiences, students develop professional competencies while building networks with community organizations and potential employers.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT RHS SPECIAL INTEREST AREAS (<https://ed.psu.edu/rehabilitation-human-services-bs>)

Careers

Many RHS graduates enter the workforce directly after completing their degree, using their knowledge of disability, human services systems, and professional helping skills to support individuals and communities. RHS graduates pursue positions in areas such as:

Disability and Rehabilitation Services

- Vocational rehabilitation services
- Disability support services

- Employment support and job coaching for individuals with disabilities
- College and university disability services

Mental Health and Behavioral Health Services

- Community mental health programs
- Behavioral health support roles
- Case management and service coordination

Addictions and Recovery Services

- Drug and alcohol treatment programs
- Recovery support services
- Prevention and community education programs

Youth and Family Services

- Youth development and mentoring programs
- Child and family service agencies
- Foster care and family support programs

Healthcare and Rehabilitation Settings

- Hospitals and rehabilitation centers
- Medical case management
- Aging and geriatric services

Community and Government Services

- Corrections and justice-related rehabilitation programs
- Office of Children, Youth, and Family Services
- Public and nonprofit human service organizations

Many graduates also pursue roles in program coordination, community outreach, and human service program administration.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES OF THE REHABILITATION AND HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM (<https://ed.psu.edu/rehabilitation-human-services-bs>)

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

A degree in Rehabilitation and Human Services provides a strong foundation for students who wish to pursue **advanced professional training or graduate study** in helping professions and health-related fields.

Common graduate pathways for RHS graduates include:

Counseling and Behavioral Health

- Rehabilitation counseling
- Mental health counseling
- Addiction counseling
- School counseling

Human Services and Social Services

- Social work
- Public health
- Human services administration

Allied Health Professions

- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy

- Speech-language pathology
- Nursing or other health professions

Education and Student Support

- Higher education and student affairs
- Special education

Research and Policy

- Disability studies
- Public policy and advocacy
- Community health and prevention

These pathways allow RHS graduates to continue advancing their professional skills while contributing to the improvement of services and support systems for individuals and communities.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES
(<https://ed.psu.edu/rehabilitation-human-services-bs>)