Western Michigan University’s Rehabilitation Counseling/Teaching (RCTM) M.A. program is a 76 credit hour program that is a collaboration between the Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies and the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology.

The program prepares graduates to provide a full range of vocational rehabilitation counseling services to individuals with cognitive, physical, psychiatric, and sensory disabilities.

Program graduates receive two Master of Arts degrees, one in Counselor Education: Rehabilitation Counseling (CERM) and one in Vision Rehabilitation Therapy (VRTX).

The program is accredited by the Council on Rehabilitation Education and approved by the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Graduates are eligible for Michigan Licensure as Professional Counselors and are eligible to become certified rehabilitation counselors through the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification and certified vision rehabilitation therapists through the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP).

State-of-the-art technology and clinics are utilized to maximize students’ education in rehabilitation counseling and teaching.
Rehabilitation Counseling and Teaching (Dual M.A.)

Teaching, Research, and Program Focus Areas
WMU's Blindness and Low Vision faculty have a strong knowledge base and are highly involved in research in a variety of areas. They frequently collaborate with colleagues as they work to advance the field and assist those with blindness and low vision to live fulfilling, independent lives.

Key areas of expertise include: rehabilitation counseling personnel preparation experiential methodologies; and burnout, compassion fatigue, and compassion satisfaction among blindness and low vision service providers and rehabilitation counselors.

RCTM’s mission is to promote quality rehabilitation services for, and with, individuals with disabilities through the education and preparation of qualified rehabilitation personnel; the provision of professional and student centered services to rehabilitation agencies, facilities and associations; and, the sponsorship of research related to employment and rehabilitation to advance the profession.

Admissions
All applicants must have completed a bachelor’s degree at an accredited college or university and must meet the qualifications for WMU graduate admissions. To apply, students must complete the WMU Graduate College application and the departmental application, which requires a résumé, two copies of transcripts, a personal and professional goals statement, and three reference forms. Based on a review of the application material, selected applicants may be invited for interviews. For more information and application materials visit the program website at wmich.edu/visionstudies/academics/counseling/

Graduate Assistantships/Associateships
Some type of financial support is often available. As support levels vary, prospective students should contact program advisors to verify the support available under specific circumstances. A limited number of graduate assistantships are available.

Contacts
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Western Michigan University
One of the top-100 public universities in the United States, Western Michigan University offers many nationally known graduate programs, including 29 doctoral and 64 master’s degrees. More than 20 percent of its 25,000 students are enrolled in graduate course work.

Kalamazoo
With a population of more than 325,000, Kalamazoo is the sixth largest metropolitan area in Michigan and among the 150 largest in the country. Kalamazoo is rated one of the 25 best cities in the country for young college graduates, and is located midway between Chicago and Detroit.