



DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION AND  
DISABILITY STUDIES  
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**MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN REHABILITATION COUNSELING  
WITH SPECIALIZATION IN  
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY  
REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
SCHOLARSHIP AGREEMENT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_, as a recipient of a long-term training award from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) agree to fulfill the following terms and conditions:

**I. I will provide appropriate documentation that I have met at least one of the following conditions. I am:**

1. a U.S. citizen or national;
2. a permanent resident of Guam or American Samoa; or
3. a lawful permanent resident of the U.S.

**II. As an applicant for the RSA graduate long-term training award, I:**

1. have expressed interest in a career in clinical practice, administration, supervision, teaching, or research in psychiatric rehabilitation, vocational rehabilitation, supported employment, or independent living of persons with disabilities, especially those with severe disabilities;
2. will not accept payment of educational allowances from any other federal, state, or local public or private non-profit agency, if that allowance is conditioned on an employment obligation that conflicts with my obligation to work in a nonprofit rehabilitation agency or related agency;
3. agree to obtain and maintain employment in a designated state rehabilitation agency or in a non-profit rehabilitation agency, professional corporation, professional practice group, or related agency providing services to individuals with severe disabilities under an agreement with a Designated State Unit (DSU);
4. agree to pursue studies in the graduate Rehabilitation Counseling Program at Southern University;
5. understand that the RSA Scholarship will be awarded every semester on a competitive basis; and
6. am not an employee of the Federal Government, nor do I plan to become one while pursuing my graduate studies at Southern University.

**III. I understand that I must maintain satisfactory progress toward the Master of Science degree in Rehabilitation Counseling with a specialization in Assistive Technology(RC-PR) as follows. I will:**

1. maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher;
2. not have incomplete grade(s) in any of the courses, except Thesis/Research Project;
3. maintain a full time course load of at least 12 semester hours each semester or nine hours during the summer (except for the state agency employees and those enrolled as part time students) and not withdraw from any class without the knowledge of the Project Director.
4. complete at least one internship, REHB 591 Internship I or REHB 592 Internship II focusing on AT at Louisiana Rehabilitation Services;
5. write a thesis/capstone project (optionslz0 on issues pertaining to AT);
6. will complete 3 specialized courses Assistive Technology (e.g., REHB 575 Applications of Assistive Technology in VR-I, REHB 576 Applications of Assistive Technology in VR-II, and REHB 577 Clinical Observations in Assistive Technology) before graduation; and
7. will complete the degree within 2 years after receiving the scholarship (state agency employees are required to completed within 4 years).

**IV. Employment and Repayment obligations:**

As an RSA long-term award recipient, I agree to maintain employment:

1. in a State rehabilitation agency or related agency, in a nonprofit rehabilitation agency including a professional corporation or professional practice group through which there is a service arrangement with the designated State agency;
2. on a full or part time basis;
3. for a period of not less than the **full-time equivalent of two years** for each year for which RSA funding was received, within a period, beginning after I complete the training for which the scholarship was awarded; and
4. fulfilling my employment obligation within the sum of the number of years required in the above paragraph and two additional years upon completion of my course of study or the cessation of my enrollment in an institution of higher learning.

Scholarship - Years	1	2	3	4
Pay Back - Years	2 post graduation	4 post graduation	6 post graduation	8 post graduation
Time Limit - Years	4 post graduation	6 post graduation	8 post graduation	10 post graduation

**V. In the event of failing to meet the terms and conditions of the RSA scholarship award, I agree to:**

repay all or part of any scholarship received, plus interest and collection costs as per the guidelines of 31 U.S.C. 371 7, except as the Commissioner, by regulation, may provide for repayment exceptions and deferrals.

Interest on the unpaid balance accrues from the date the trainee is determined to have entered repayment status. Any accrued interest is capitalized at the time the trainee's repayment schedule is established.

**VI. Deferral or exception to performance or repayment under RSA scholarship agreement.**

As a recipient of the award, I understand that a Deferral or Repayment Exemption may be granted, in whole or part, by the Secretary of the Department of Education as follows:

1. Repayment is not required, if I:
  - a. am unable to continue the course of study or perform the work obligation because of an impairment that is expected to continue indefinitely or result in death; or
  - b. die.
2. Repayment of a scholarship may be deferred during the time I:
  - a. engage in a full time course of study at an institute of higher education;
  - b. serve, not in excess of three years, on active duty as a member of the armed services of the United States;
  - c. serve as a volunteer under the Peace Corps Act;
  - d. serve as a full time volunteer under Title I of the Domestic Volunteer Services Act of 1973;
  - e. am temporarily totally disabled, for a period not to exceed three years; or

- f. am unable to secure employment as required by the agreement by reason of the care provided to a spouse with a disability for a period not to exceed twelve months.

The amount of the scholarship to be repaid is proportional to the employment obligation not completed.

#### **VII. Procedures:**

A request for a deferral or an exception to performance or repayment of a scholarship must be made in writing to the Secretary:

\_\_\_\_\_, Secretary  
 Department of Education  
 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.  
 Washington, D.C. 20202

Documentation must be provided to substantiate the grounds for a deferral or exemption.

For additional information or clarification, please contact the Regional Commissioner, Rehabilitation Services Administration.

#### **VIII. Reporting Requirement:**

I agree to inform the Rehabilitation Counseling Program of any change of name, address, phone, e-mail, or employment status and will document employment satisfying the terms of the employment agreement. Further, I agree to sign an **Exit Certification** and complete an **Online Exit Survey** at the time I complete the program (during the last semester in the program) that acknowledges but not limited to the following:

1. The name of the institution and the number of the federal grant that provided the scholarship.
2. My field of study.
3. The number of years I need to work to satisfy the work requirements.
4. The total amount of scholarship assistance received subject to the work-or-repay provision.
5. The time period during which I must satisfy the work requirements.
6. All other obligations.

I have received, read, and comprehended the regulations contained in the attached documents: 34 CFR Part 386 of June 16,1994, RSA Long-Term Training Scholarship Information, and a summary of terms and conditions which are stated in this contract for receiving the RSA Scholarship for graduate study in Rehabilitation Counseling with a specialization in Assistive Technology (RC-AT).

Name of Recipient	Signature	Date

<u>Madan Kundu, Ph.D., CRC, FNRCA</u> Project Director Grant No.: H129B140043		
	Signature	Date

<u>Shelly Hebert, MS, CRC</u> Training Director Louisiana Rehabilitation Services		
	Signature	Date