

## RHAB J700

### Research Paper

### Grading Rubric

Your grade for the research paper will be based on the format, writing style, references, and content of your paper. The paper is based on a 100-point scale and your grade constitutes **20% of your final grade**.

**Format. 8 points.** APA-style (6<sup>th</sup> ed.) format is required. This involves attention to the title page, headers, headings, page numbering, in-text citations, and a reference list. You do NOT have to include an abstract although you may do so if you wish. The Assignments section of Blackboard includes a web-based resource from the University of Wisconsin-Madison that makes APA formatting fairly straightforward for graduate student papers.

**Writing style. 12 points.** Writing style includes proper spelling, grammar, and construction of well-written (e.g. clear) sentences. Writing style also includes (1) providing adequate information about a source when citing or paraphrasing it and (2) using original language wherever possible and only directly quoting when necessary and/or appropriate.

**References. 15 points.** The textbook may be used as a reference, but at least 5 *additional* references must be included. The additional references must be articles from professional journals – not websites. Journal articles should address relevant aspects of your research paper. All USC students have on-line access to the USC library electronic journal collection and many articles are available in full-text.

**Content. 65 points.** In this paper, you have the opportunity to fully explore a topic related to the field of rehabilitation counseling and do so in a well-organized way. Developing an outline that may then be used for purposes of creating headings is encouraged. You should also integrate your research into the paper and rely *more on the research articles than the textbook* when describing key points. The content should give evidence of considerable thought and must demonstrate understanding of the topic you've selected.

### Note

If you don't know how to search the USC library electronic journal collection, ask for help! You can either complete the free, online tutorial available through the USC Writing Center website (see Blackboard/Assignments for more information) or schedule an appointment with the instructor for a tutoring session.