



WORKING AS A VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROFESSIONAL IN BC

OVERVIEW

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) involves multidisciplinary skills, experience, education and training to assist persons with functional, psychological, developmental, cognitive and emotional impairments and health conditions to overcome barriers to accessing, maintaining or returning to employment, to a position in the community and / or to quality of life.

Rehabilitation professionals (RPs) work with clients who have physical, emotional, developmental or mental disabilities to create a plan that fits their level of education, aptitude, physical abilities and career goals. RPs often collaborate with other social service and mental health professions to address barriers to employment, engage in job development and placement programs and arrange for evaluations of physical, mental, academic and vocational needs.

Prospective places of employment include industrial work sites, corporate offices, insurance companies, service providers, human resources departments and workers' compensation organizations or be self-employed.

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

Most individuals currently working in the field have a background in occupational health or other health professions and have received direct training in vocational rehabilitation and disability management on the job or through workshops, courses and diploma programs.

Most vocational rehabilitation positions require 3 – 5 years of related experience combined with bachelor's or master's degree in a related field.

CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

➤ **Commission of Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC)**

Commission of Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) provides information and resources to promote career development and career opportunities for both its CRCs and the profession of rehabilitation counseling. It is based in the United States.

➤ **Vocational Rehabilitation Association of Canada (VRA)**

The *Vocational Rehabilitation Association of Canada (VRA)* is local (in BC) and has two categories of membership:

- *Associate Members* - those Members gaining work or educational experience to qualify for their Professional Member status or those Members who have joined the Association to access networking or educational opportunities. This membership is non-voting and may not assume a position on the board
- *Professional Members* - those Members who hold the designation of Fellow, RRP, RVP, RCSS, MCVRP, CVRP, CVRP(I), CVRP(P), CVRP(F), CVRP(D), CCRC, CRC, CVE, CCVE, CCVE(P), CCVE(F), CCVE(D), or another designation approved by the Board.

➤ **College of Vocational Rehabilitation Professionals (CVRP)**

The *College of Vocational Rehabilitation Professionals (CVRP)* is based in Ontario and has positioned itself to appear to be a provincial regulatory college but is in fact a non-profit organization.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND COURSES

Simon Fraser University (SFU) offers a [Rehabilitation and Disability Management](#) diploma through continuing studies. This professional diploma program meets the training requirements for the Certified Vocational Rehabilitation Professional (CVRP) designation

University of Northern BC (UNBC) [Master of Arts in Disability Management](#) is a graduate program in disability management providing the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully develop disability management strategies, including work entry or return-to-work strategies for injured workers and/or persons with disabilities.

Prepared November 2019 by BCPLAN Navigator. Updated December 2021

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Program graduates may pursue the accreditation Canadian Certification for Rehabilitation Counselors or may continue their education through the National Institute for Disability Management and Research to become a Certified Return to Work Coordinator (CRTWC) or Certified Disability Management Professional (CDMP).

Douglas College offers a 30-hour course in *Introduction to Vocational Rehabilitation*. It is one of 10 courses in the [Career Development Practice \(CDP\) program](#).

Canadian Center for Occupational Health (CCOH) offers an online course [Return to Work: The Basics](#) that provides a practical overview of Return-to-Work strategies, solutions, and program implementation.

RESOURCES

BC Association of Kinesiologist (BCAK) - <https://bcak.bc.ca/>

Canadian Center for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) courses- https://www.ccohs.ca/products/courses/course_listing.html

College of Vocational Rehabilitation Professionals (CVRP)- <https://cvrp.ca/>

Commission of Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) - <https://www.crccertification.com/>

Ontario Society of the Vocational Rehabilitation Association of Canada (VRA) – <http://www.vracanadaon.com/>

Vocational Rehabilitation Association of Canada British Columbia (VRA BC) - <https://www.vracanadabc.ca/>

Vocational Rehabilitation Association of Canada VRA Learning Academy - <https://vrlearningacademy.com/>