

[ Inaudible ]

>> Hey everyone, welcome to our CRC Exam Study Session. I want to thank, you know, Robert Black for [inaudible] our program and facilitating this training. And basically the idea is to give you some resources, things that you know, we think are helpful in preparing for this test. And I just want to give you just a little brief background and then I'm going to hand it over to Robert. But basically, we are used the CRC as a culminating exam for the program-- with the fall 2014 [inaudible]. And the exam itself is a combination of 175 multiple choice questions taken over three half hours. So it's a pretty, you know, comprehensive exam. And the idea is that it corresponds to different parts of the curriculum that you've had in the program. One thing I think that's important to think about is that taking the classes in the program is a good and necessary foundation for studying for the test, but it's not enough to pass the test. You've got to do concentrated study on top of the material that you've covered in the program. The things that Robert today will talk about are things that you know, we feel are really, real help resources to help prepare you for [inaudible]. [Inaudible] questions themselves are based on what are called role and function studies where CRC has commissioned studies where they do very exhaustive survey of practicing rehabilitation counselors across the United States to determine, you know, what are the things that you need to know to effectively function in this field. So it's a very, I think you could say, very scientifically you know based and developed exam. And the questions themselves deal with both counseling, that's part one, part two deals with rehabilitation and disability issues.

So those are the two components that you have to take and pass for the test. And you know, kind of back to the scientific development of the test itself, the questions are set up so that out of the 175 questions, only 150 actually count for the test. 25 questions are basically like just kind of questions where they want to see how the questions perform. And if the questions are not performing well, they take them out for any future examination. The questions that everyone will see are probably going to be different because they will pool 175 from a large bank of questions that CRC has. So you know, if you're comparing you know what questions you had on the test, maybe different from students [inaudible], but again they come from this large pool of students. And the finally thing I will state was just in terms of the development of these questions, CRC pays a lot of attention to the performance of the questions. I mentioned they've got these 25 questions they examine to see how they're performing.

One way they do that is by what they call a point biserial analysis. And what they'll look at for every question, they're going to look at how does a question compare to how the applicant did for the remainder of the questions on the test? What they're looking for is a positive correlation between each individual question and the percentage of items the respondent gets correct. So if you have a positive point biserial evaluation for each individual question, it means that if they got that question correct, they probably got most of the questions correct on the exam. And likewise, if they got that question wrong, they're more likely to get more questions on the exam wrong. If you have a low point biserial, it means the opposite. If you got the question wrong, you probably got more of the questions correct. And vice-versa. And what a low point biserial means is that it's not a good indication of the overall knowledge of the student. And so they throw that question out. So I think, I tell you all this so that as you go to this exam, it's been given a lot of [inaudible] and attention over the years and it's considered to be I think a high quality exam.

The final thing I'll say is that [inaudible] the difficulty of the test. You know, you've got to go in knowing that not everyone will pass and you just have to give your best effort on this. If you look at the July or the October, the March 2018 pass rate, it was 59% nationally, July 2017 it was 50% nationally, and then also in October 2017 it was a 50% pass rate. So I think, you know, I don't want to say that to scare you, but I think just to kind of reinforce the point, you want to give your fullest effort in preparing for this test. And again, Robert's presentation today is an effort to best prepare you for that. So good luck and let me know if you have any questions.

>> Hello, everybody. I'd like to thank Dr. [Inaudible] for giving me this opportunity to present some study resources for those of you who are preparing to take the CRC and for future applicants to take the CRC. We'll go over this and expose to you several different resources and at the end there will be plenty of time for discussion, because I'm really interested in getting any suggestions or input from you all on ways that we can best serve the students. My particular interest is in hearing from the students preparing to take the exam in July and October of this year. I'd like to see if we can focus on some immediate needs for those students. And then I would also invite you to spread the word about this study group forming to other students and all cohorts. It's never too early to start preparing for the CRC and so my goal is to incorporate as many students as possible and this is going to be a student generated group, so your interest and your participation level is going to have a lot to do with the outcome and see if we can roll this into the fall semester/spring semester year after year. It'd be great if we could all give our input so that this could be incorporated as a student resource for future students as well. So with that, I'll just get started here and then if you have questions, there will be plenty of time after I complete going through the resources for us to have an open discussion and ask any questions or anything like that. So with that, we'll get started.

Okay. So-- so, the commission on rehabilitation counselor certification is the organization that you, that people who have already applied to take the CRC is familiar with. And it's the organization that kind of administers the exam. And comes up with all the science behind the exam that [inaudible] was referring to. And so first of all, for those who aren't familiar with their website, I'd like to just show you what they have to offer here. And so... I don't know why that's not coming out. Yeah, that's a good point, thank you for reminding me. So we're going to post this presentation on the rehabilitation student association webpage underneath the rehabilitation counseling program, which is part of the Innerwork Institute website. And but, individually, if you would like me to send out the PowerPoint to you, please feel free to email me and my email will be at the end here, and I'm happy to send the PowerPoint that has all the links to the resources to you. So... So this is the commission on rehabilitation counselor certification website. And so, they have reception for students who are not yet preparing to take the exam. They also have a section for applicants. And so, if you go in here, you'll find all kinds of information that's valuable to know about the CRC credential and the exam here and some of the benefits from taking and passing the exam. In addition to that, there is a certification guide for the CRC.

That... Okay. It doesn't seem to want to come up here. Okay. So... [Inaudible]. So this gives an example of the CRC exam overview. But this guide is what I'm really wanting to direct your attention to. The first section is just, goes over the requirements for being able to apply to take the CRC. And so I'm going to skip over that because we're all graduating from this program, and so that in effect makes you eligible to sit for the CRC. But there's... So if we go up to page 23, it goes over what the CRC exam covers and so it'll actually tell you the percentage of questions in certain knowledge domains. And that goes on for a few pages just to kind of give you all the course content and the key concepts that you're going to want to be familiar with. And then as you scroll through the certification guide, if will then go into what you need to apply for taking it, any accommodations that you are going to be requesting, and further down here it will give you a section on study, sample exam questions. And so these are actually questions that the CRC, the commotion on rehabilitation counseling commotion, have devised for us to kind of familiarize ourselves with what the test might look like. And so I would encourage you all to familiarize yourself with those pages. And then following that is a reading resource list. And a lot of these will be familiar to you from the classes that we've taken in this program.

Many of them are pulled directly from the syllabuses that we've all been familiarized with throughout our program. So I think that's valuable information to know where you can find that. And so there's several pages of that. And so there's a lot of information on this website and in this certification guide. So I would encourage everybody to familiarize yourself with that. So, going back to another resource. So I referenced the rehabilitation counseling association webpage. And I wanted to just show you where that is located. So that's in the Innerwork website. And you'll find all these resources listed there. Right now we have a few of them, we're going to be adding more over the coming days. So I would encourage everybody to check back and check this often. Because as we add more resources, this is where you'll find them. For example, there's a comprehensive study guide that was produced by an alumnus of our program, Nick Wright, he was kind enough to allow us to use this for future students' preparation. And that's over a hundred pages of in-depth, comprehensive information for the-- exam preparation. So that would be one primary source that everybody could access to really study for the exam. And that's posted on the website. And then this is a book that I think is probably the best resource out there if you're going to purchase something. It's the certified rehabilitation counselor examination preparation book. And it covers all the curriculum areas that we've been familiarized with through our program. And what will appear on the exam. Along with study tests, practice tests at the end of each section, so you can test yourself.

One of the things that this study group will encourage you to do is to structure study time in your own schedule, because we're going to try to determine some mutually available times for students to participate in like an online study group such as this. But it's really going to depend on you structuring your own study time on your own schedule. And the one thing there is I would test yourself quite often to see what material you have mastered and what material you still have to practice and then when the study group comes together, if we can get that coordinated, you can bring the material that you still need to practice and then maybe other students can collaborate on helping each other master the information. So, this is probably, if you're going to purchase something, that's what I would recommend that you purchase. And that's available on Amazon. And it also includes an app that you can have on a mobile device or a computer or laptop. And you can read through the same stuff that's in the book. And test yourself and that sort of thing. So it's got a couple of different platforms you can use. And then if there's several study programs out there offered by private companies and some universities. They cost money. And they're not inexpensive. And taking into consideration the application fee to even sit for the exam, I know a lot of students may not be in the position to put out 200 or 400 dollars for a study program. But if there was one that you were going to invest in, the University of Wisconsin Stout online training, it's probably the one that I would recommend that you look at. And so.. The nice thing about this is you're required to login every week and participate in the group, but you can do that on your own schedule.

There's no set meeting time. And they also offer a variety of different learning styles. So for visual learners, there's going to be videos and presentations and that sort of thing. There will also be material to read. And other activities relevant to people wanting to improve their skills and being able to sit for the exam. So that would be the one training that we would probably recommend that you take if you wanted to invest in something like that. And again, that information is on the RCSA webpage. So you can go there and click on that. The next one of their trainings is coming up on August 9th. And I understand that these trainings fill up rather quickly, so it may be here but gone tomorrow. So if that's something you're interested in, you might want to consider registering for that. And then another free resource is online and you can either Google something like "certified rehabilitation counselor exam preparation." And you can find it that way. Or we'll also have it on this presentation and located on the RCSA webpage. And that's an actual quizlet that somebody last year designed. It's got over 720 terms. And it's kind of in a flashcard content. So you can work your way through this and test yourself on different terms. Like I said, there's 728 terms here. So I'm not going to scroll through all of them, but that's where you would locate that. So that's a free resource that was comprised very recently. And then I talked to an alumnus from the program and we're getting input from them on how we might be able to look at test strategies and that sort of thing.

So that's how this will be evolving as this study group takes shape. But one of the resources that a few people that have taken the exam before said helped, that's very helpful for them, and it's very inexpensive, is something called the Tidbits. And this is a private company website, the CRCexam.com, and you can go there and they've got all kinds of trainings available. Some of them are very expensive, but I would recommend if you want something low-cost, to order the Tidbits. You can see here that the Tidbits is just 39 pages of key concepts and answers. So it's kind of an easy reference resource. And I've heard from people that have taken the CRC exam that that was quite helpful for them. So that's something you might want to consider investing in. They also have different trainings and CDs and study guides, but they all come with a price. And so it might be something you're interested in but the Tidbits would be very valuable I would think. And then finally, I want to open it up for discussion so that we can kind of get some suggestions from students that want to participate in this group on how the group can best serve your needs. Any questions you might have. I'm thinking of putting out like a Doodle Poll or a Survey Monkey kind of to see if we can identify some mutually agreeable times that a group could come together, either in person or through a platform like Zoom, and do some organized study groups. So I'm interested in getting any input from you on that. And so at this point, I'll just open it up for questions and.. And see if anybody can you know, wants to participate. So the floor is yours.

>> Robert, did you take any of the sample questions, or have you had the chance to explore any of that [inaudible] they're structured?

>> Well you know, there's a lot of practice tests and they all come, you know, with a dollar amount. But that certification guide does have some practice questions in there that are supposed to be representative of what you'll find on the exam. Also, the CRC preparation examination book that I pointed out to you is available on Amazon, that has practice tests in the back of each section and I understand that those are representative of questions that you'll see on the test as well. I haven't looked at any of the practice exams for purchase. The commotion on rehabilitation counselor certification has a practice test that, I think it's $39.95 for 50 questions. And that's probably going to most closely resemble what you'll see on the exam. I haven't had the chance to look at that, yet. So I don't know if anybody else has that is preparing to take the exam soon.

>> [Inaudible] for our classes and I just want to try and figure out what I should be really focusing on [inaudible] what we're learning but just sample things like tests [inaudible] dates, you know, things like that.

>> Yeah, well there's a certain amount of that you're going to be expected to know. Like the major pieces of legislation and when they were passed and what they did for people with disabilities. And the rehabilitation counseling-- so yeah.

>> Even just scrolling through [inaudible].

[ Inaudible ]

>> Yes. Yeah. Yes.

[ Inaudible ]

I think it's designed for one person to have access to. I don't know how they structure that. But I was interested in finding that out, too. But I couldn't get information because they want each person to register. I think you're given an identifier and then that's how you participate throughout the program.

[ Inaudible ]

Yeah. Oh.

[ Inaudible ]

>> I don't know if they have something but [inaudible] audiobook version of that. They didn't have anything similar, they had nothing for counseling at all.

>> So, let's see. I'm trying to see. Is there anybody who's connected with us remotely that has questions or suggestions?

[ Inaudible ]

>> So Robert, how soon are you going to start organizing the [inaudible]?

>> Well I'm going, like I said, I'm going to put like a Doodle Poll or a Survey Monkey together and have that out to people who are interested in the next week, probably by June 1st at the latest. So we can kind of see if we can identify some mutually convenient times. I know that might be someone of a challenge. But we can give it a try and go from there. The other thing is... Okay... So this is my contact information. RBlack@SDSU.edu. So I'm going to be organizing the group with everybody's email that e-mailed me so far expressing interest in participating. So if you haven't yet e-mailed me with your contact information, please do. And I'll add you to that group. Because I'm going to be sending out weekly kind of teaser questions, questions that are going to be representative of something that's on the test just to kind of keep us focused and rolling along. And I haven't decided if I'm going to do that on a, a daily basis might be a little monotonous for people, but maybe compile some for a week and then send one email out with updates about what the study group is becoming and that sort of thing. If you have any suggestions on ways that the group can most serve your needs, I would really appreciate getting that information. I don't want this to be a waste of people's times, I want it to be a useful tool for us all to benefit from.

And so I'm really open. Also, if we determine to use a particular approach, if people aren't finding that useful, that would be great information to have so that we can kind of change it up and find approaches that would help people out. And also, like I said earlier, if you could spread the word to other students who are in the program or people who are preparing to take the exam and get their participation, that would be great. I'm looking forward to getting some alumnus that have come through the program and taken the exam, getting their input into things. Particularly focusing on potential study strategies or test taking strategies. Because I think there was some strategies to be identified to help people successfully take the test. The feedback I've gotten so far from people who recently took the exam was that it is difficult and you'll move through it thinking that you're not doing very well, but to try to set that anxiety aside, because chances are you are probably doing pretty well and if you're focusing on kind of the negative feelings that are coming up about not doing well, it's not going to help you complete the test successfully. So that's one piece of information I've gotten just recently. And I'm continuing to solicit more feedback who recently took the exam.

[ Inaudible ]

Yeah, it looks like two to three times a year.

>> Where do they do it?

>> At different locations. They actually, they'll give you the list of locations that are available when you apply for it. So some of that information, I don't know if there's some general information out there for people who are preparing to take the exam in July or October about the locations.

>> Yeah, I think it's [inaudible].

>> Oh, okay. I see.

>> Because I'm taking it in July and it's some place [inaudible] the area.

>> Are you registered online?

>> Mm-hm. So I [inaudible]. I don't know, I just kind of [inaudible]. Because you register for it, and then of course you're going to pay all your money. So you pay right away and then it's like nothing for a couple weeks. And then someone will email you going "We need all this paper. It's due next week." It's like [inaudible] yeah. And then you need your advisor to sign it.

[ Inaudible ]

>> Yeah, right.

>> And then I asked them, I said "Well what date am I taking it?" Well the dates are [inaudible]. Can you just tell me what date? I need my airline tickets. And nothing. And then they e-mailed me saying "Okay, you can now register for your exam date." [Inaudible] that date [inaudible] available.

[ Inaudible ]

>> There was only one location offered to me.

>> The other information I would be interested in finding out if there's any students that need accommodations in any certain format or platform to make this information more accessible to them. If you could email me with that information, because I want to make this as inclusive as possible to include all people with different accommodation needs. And so I would really be open to getting that input from people.

[ Inaudible ]

I see. Yeah.

[ Inaudible ]

So also to the people who are connecting remotely, I sense there might be some questions out there but I'm not getting that information on our end here. I don't know if it's a technical difficulty or just what. But please feel free to email me any questions that you might have based on the information we've presented here today. Or any suggestions you have. Do not hesitate to contact me. Because I want to make sure everybody's questions are answered. So is there any other suggestions or questions? Okay. Well, I guess then with that, we'll wrap it up, okay? So thank you very much everybody for joining us. I appreciate your participation.

>> Thank you, Robert.

[ Inaudible ]

>> Thank you.