

*"I made a difference in my customer's life today."*

At the Disabilities Services Agencies, most of our employees are able to say this at the end of each day.

By helping people with disabilities gain the skills to establish or re-establish their employment, and by protecting the rights and programs of Virginians with disabilities, we open doorways to improving the human condition on a daily basis.

Our employees truly make a difference in the lives of many citizens of the Commonwealth.

In partnership with people with disabilities and their families, the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS) collaborates with the public and private sectors to provide and advocate for the highest quality services that empower individuals with disabilities to maximize their employment, independence and full inclusion into society.

The mission of the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI) is to empower blind, visually impaired, and deaf-blind individuals to achieve their maximum level of employment, education, and personal independence.

To learn more about these agencies' mission, goals, and the services they provide, please visit their websites at:

[www.vadrs.org](http://www.vadrs.org)  
[www.vdbvi.org](http://www.vdbvi.org)

To find out more, please contact:

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# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

DISABILITY SERVICES AGENCIES

## Internship and Employment Opportunities



*Discover a rewarding career  
in Vocational Rehabilitation*



**dbvi** Department for  
the Blind and  
Vision Impaired  
Education • Employment • Independence

# Virginia Rehabilitation Counseling Internships

The Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS) and the Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI) offer second year graduate students \*paid internship opportunities to complete the 600 hour requirement and gain real VR experience.

The hourly rate outside of Northern Virginia is \$12 and \$14 in Northern Virginia locations. DRS and DBVI also offer unpaid internships and practicums.

\*Paid internship placements are dependent on availability of funding.

## Requirements for Internship Placement:

- Current transcript reflecting degree program in Rehabilitation Counseling;
- Current resume; and
- Letter of recommendation from faculty advisor



## Work Profile

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- Under the close supervision and direction of a Vocational Rehabilitation Field Services Manager, entry-level rehabilitation professional responsibilities are performed to provide services to persons with disabilities.
- VR Counselors may also provide on-the-job training, which is designed to provide practical work experience in a vocational rehabilitation environment.
- An intern should be enrolled in their final year of an accredited master's degree program in rehabilitation counseling or approved curricula and must provide a letter of recommendation from their academic advisor.

## Duties

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Under supervision, the Intern may:

- Perform comprehensive assessments to examine eligibility factors, rehabilitation needs and capabilities/strengths of an applicant for VR services;
- Work with consumers to develop individualized employment plans and arrange for needed services;
- Provide VR and job placement services;
- Maintain and develop liaisons with referral services and service providers; and
- Prepare case records and reports.

## Qualifications

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The following qualifications are strongly recommended for Intern applicants:

- Knowledge of individual and group behavior; effective methods of working with people; principles and methods of vocational and social rehabilitation, mental and sensory disabilities; functional limitations and their related vocational implications;
- Knowledge of techniques of placing persons with disabilities in competitive employment; counseling principles and methods of analyzing and evaluating vocational, educational and medical information.
- Proficient in the use of personal computers including Microsoft software applications.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with consumers, other staff members, public and private agencies and institutions, employers and consumer groups;
- Ability to apply federal and state laws, regulations and policies concerning the delivery of services;
- Ability to keep accurate and complete records and prepare reports;
- Ability to apply casework principles and methods relating to rehabilitation counseling and the empowerment concept to vocational rehabilitation; and
- Ability to analyze information, draw conclusions and make sound casework decisions; and communicate effectively orally and in writing.