

# Clarence D. Merckerson, PhD, LPC-S (AL), CRC

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## EDUCATION

**Doctor of Philosophy**, *Rehabilitation Counseling*, Auburn University, December 2017.

- **Dissertation:** Hiring Manager Stigma Toward Hiring People with Disabilities

**Post Master's**, *Rehabilitation Leadership and Management Certificate Program*, Auburn University, 2013.

**Post Master's**, *Online Course Development and Instruction*, Alabama State University, 2015.

**Post Master's**, *Forensic Interviewing of Children Training*, National Children's Advocacy Center; Huntsville, AL 2013.

**Master of Science**, *Rehabilitation Counseling*, Georgia State University, 2006.  
Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) scholarship recipient.

**Bachelor of Science**, *Marketing*, University of Alabama, 2000.  
Concentration: *World Business*

## PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

**January 2018**      **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**, Southern University Department of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

- Teach didactic rehabilitation courses for undergraduate and graduate courses on-campus and on-line through the use of digital technology.
- **Co-Project Director:** RSA Rehabilitation Counselor Training Program with Specialization in Psychiatric Rehabilitation of Diverse Populations –on campus and online.

- Supervision of undergraduate and graduate interns (both on campus and through distance education) within department. Classroom instructor and liaison between student interns and their internship site supervisors.
- Develop and implement plan for departmental accreditation (CACREP).
- Coordinate graduate student recruitment and admission into rehabilitation counseling program through application review, interviewing, and approval.
- Advise graduate and undergraduate rehabilitation counseling students in developing course schedule and student retention.

**2014 – 2017**

**ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR**, Alabama State University Department of Rehabilitation Studies

- Instructor of numerous courses for undergraduate students.
- Mentor at-risk university students toward achieving classroom, professional, and personal goals regardless of physical ability and level of functioning.

**2013 – 2017**

**GRADUATE ASSISTANT**, Auburn University Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, and Counseling (SERC)

- Instructor of multiple courses for undergraduate and graduate students through on-campus and distance education
- Auburn University supervision of undergraduate and graduate interns (both on campus and through distance education) within SERC department. Classroom instructor and liaison between student interns and their internship site supervisors.
- Provided counseling experience to Rehabilitation Counseling graduate students for required counseling techniques course. Also assessed students' ability to effectively apply counseling techniques and issues of diversity as Master's level Counselors through distance education course.
- Perform multiple Graduate Assistant (GA) positions within SERC department, including developing/grading tests and teaching Medical Aspects of Individuals with Disabilities course in the absence of the instructor. Course taught both on-campus and through distance education.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Southern University and A&M College Department of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies – Baton Rouge, LA**

Graduate Introduction to Rehabilitation Counseling  
Graduate Career Development, Job Development, & Job Placement  
Graduate Family & Group Counseling  
Graduate Psychosocial Aspects of Disability  
Graduate Case Management  
Graduate Practicum Course  
Graduate Internship Course  
Undergraduate Principles of Counseling  
Undergraduate Occupational Information & Job Placement

**Auburn University Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, and Counseling – Auburn, AL**

Graduate Group Counseling  
Graduate Introduction to Rehabilitation Counseling  
Graduate Assistive Technology  
Graduate Practicum Course  
Graduate Internship Course  
Undergraduate Introduction to Rehabilitation Counseling  
Undergraduate Assistive Technology  
Undergraduate Occupational Information  
Undergraduate Assessment in Rehabilitation Counseling  
Undergraduate Practicum Course  
Undergraduate Internship Course

**Alabama State University Department of Rehabilitation Studies – Montgomery, AL**

Undergraduate Theories of Counseling  
Undergraduate Group Counseling  
Undergraduate Assistive Technology  
Undergraduate Medical Aspects of Disabilities  
Undergraduate Vocational Development  
Undergraduate Assessment in Rehabilitation

**LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION**

- **Licensed Professional Counselor**, *Board of Examiners in Counseling, State of Louisiana, 2018 – Present.*
- **Licensed Professional Counselor**, *Board of Examiners in Counseling, State of Alabama, 2011 – Present*
- **Licensed Professional Counseling Supervisor**, *Board of Examiners in Counseling, State of Alabama, 2017 – Present*
- **Alabama Medicaid Provider**, *Alabama Medicaid Agency, 2012 – Present*
- **Alabama Blue Cross Blue Shield Provider**, *2016 – Present*

- **Managed Health Care Administration Provider/Member**, 2016 – Present

#### **National Certifications**

- **Certified Rehabilitation Counselor**, *Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification*, 2006 – Present

#### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Member, **Louisiana Counseling Association**

Member, **Alabama Counseling Association**

Member, **American Counseling Association**

Member, **National Rehabilitation Association**

Member, **National Council on Rehabilitation Education**

#### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

**Faculty Outstanding Achievement Award**, *Southern University*, 2018

**Outstanding Graduate Student**, *Auburn University Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, and Counseling (SERC)*, 2017

#### **MEMBERSHIP IN HONORARY SOCIETIES**

##### **Honor**

- **Chi Sigma Iota** – National Honor Society for Counseling; *Faculty Advisor*, Southern University Chapter
- **Delta Epsilon Iota** – Academic Honor Society; Auburn University Chapter
- **Gamma Beta Phi** – Academic Honor Society; Auburn University Chapter
- **Chi Sigma Iota** – National Honor Society for Counseling; Georgia State University Chapter

#### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Jun 2017 – Dec 2017 SITE ADMINISTRATOR**, Mental Health Management Services (MHM)

- Provide administrative guidance and supervision of clinical and administrative staff of 10+ individuals.
- Collaborate with a multidisciplinary team to coordinate clinical needs to inmates while providing quality behavioral/mental health services and addressing diversity issues in a correctional setting.
- Maintain open communication with the department psychiatrist, psychologist, nursing and other mental health staff, for better management and care of inmate patients in addition to assuring continuity of care for inmates.
- Provide individual and group counseling services to assist individuals in achieving more effective personal, social, education, and vocational development.
- Compile, prepare and submit required reports and requested information in a timely manner, including administrative and departmental reports.
- Interview and evaluate qualifications of prospective candidates for employment.

**2012 – 2017**

**DIRECTOR**, Access Counseling Services (ACS), LLC

- Deliver comprehensive mental health and rehabilitation counseling services to both children and adults. Provide therapy in individual and family session at ACS office, school and/or home environments. Conducting client intakes, verifying client compatibility with services offered by ACS. Develop treatment plans to educate and help clients maximize their abilities as they improve upon their deficits.
- Advocate for client rights and diversity issues while facilitating their progress toward reaching life goals. ACS representative and client/family advocate at school related and Department of Human Resources meetings for clients regarding mental health, rehabilitation, and vocational development.
- Guide business within ethical standards toward best meeting needs of clients and building lasting relationships with community partners. Hire and train 6 Master's level therapists and other company employees to successfully carry out ACS objectives and guide them toward reaching their personal/professional goals.

**2007 – 2012**

**CLINICAL DIRECTOR**, Youth Enhancement & Family Services (YEFS)

- Primary company liaison in conducting client intakes, which verify client compatibility with services offered by company. Leader in developing treatment

plans to best serve the needs of diverse clients relating to mental health, rehabilitation, and career development. Primary company representative and client/family advocate at school related and Department of Human Resources meetings for clients. Hire and train 10+ Master's level therapists and other company employees to successfully carry out company objectives and guide them toward reaching their personal/professional goals.

Promoted from **Treatment Analyst**, which primary responsibilities included leading therapy in both individual and family session at YEFS office, school and/or home environments.

- Conducted behavior evaluation/observations for local Early Head Start program

2008 – 2012

**FAMILY EDUCATION OUTPATIENT THERAPIST**, Chemical Addictions Program (CAP)

- Lead group and family therapy sessions to help adult clients and their family members better understand addictions. Addressed the variety of issues and emotions that present themselves from active substance use, withdrawal, the stages of sobriety, and relapse; while giving clients and their family members a number of therapeutic tools to help them cope with these issues.

Served a **Residential Assistant** (part-time) at CAP inpatient facility in Montgomery, Alabama from 2010 – 2012. Primary responsibility was to ensure the oversight and safety of diverse adult clients as they began recovery from substance addiction.

2007

**MOBILE CRISIS COUNSELOR**, Douglas County Community Service Board

- Conducted suicide/homicide assessment for at risk children and adolescents. Developed safety plans to keep clients safe until they could be seen by medical professionals. Company representative and client/family advocate at court proceedings involving clients receiving counseling from the agency.

2006 – 2007

**COUNSELOR**, Associated Counseling & Evaluation Services, LLC

- Guided intake assessments for children/adolescents and adult forensic populations. Facilitated family, couple, and individual counseling sessions. Lead state of Georgia approved treatment programs for family violence, anger management, and substance abuse group/individual counseling. Develop program topics for character and personal development.

2005 – 2007

**COUNSELOR**, Peachford Hospital

- Lead individual and group counseling sessions with child, adolescent, adult, and geriatric clients. Lead family counseling sessions (supervised by licensed

clinicians). Performed client psychosocial assessments. Assisted in developing treatment plans.

Started with company as a **Counseling Intern** from 2005 – 2006, before being hired as a Counselor in 2006. 1 of 2 counseling internships completed.

**2005 – 2006**

**COUNSELING INTERN**, Dekalb Crisis Center, Decatur, Georgia.

- Facilitated individual and group counseling sessions on relapse prevention and a variety of other topics (homelessness, medication compliance, etc.). Addressed client concerns for treatment and discharge plans often by helping clients arrange placement before discharge from facility. Updated company listing of potential placements for clients throughout the state of Georgia by calling and/or researching each placement facility.