

# Developing an Online PhD Program: Technology Blended with Tradition

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**Abstract:** Currently only one online doctoral program in Rehabilitation Counseling exists in the country. There are only a handful of online doctoral programs in the Counseling field. The presenters represent a university (the University of Arkansas at Little Rock), experienced in online education, considering the development of primarily online doctoral programs. This presentation will address the utilization of advanced technological instructional applications to deliver quality doctoral-level education online and present innovative solutions to practical problems that are inherent in doctoral programs.

## Overview

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The presentation will cover the following topics: 1) The demand for additional doctoral personnel in Rehabilitation; 2) The unique recruitment focus of an online PhD program; 3) Admissions assessment of prospective students in writing and critical thinking; 4) Meeting doctoral residency requirements for online students; 5) Developing a learning community for online doctoral students; 6) Mentoring online doctoral students; 7) Encouraging dissertation completion for online doctoral students; and 8) Increasing retention and reducing dropout rates for doctoral students.