**Research Paper: *Draft Abstract (20 points)* & *Final Paper (100 points)***:

For the Research Paper, you will choose one **disability OR chronic illness** from this semester. The goal of the research paper is to introduce one new area to your repertoire of knowledge. Your research should be thorough, and include information on the following areas:

* Etiology and functional impact,
* Medical interventions and treatment,
* Psychosocial and/or assistive technology interventions
* Cultural issues that may impact on either the disability or rehabilitation
* Implications of the condition for education, training and employment for rehabilitation counselors, and/or any specific issues related to vocational rehabilitation.

Select one disability or chronic illness from topics covered in this course. Some of the topic areas listed are very general, such as "mental health disorder." Given there are many diagnostic areas under this category, focus on a more specific area under the broad category, i.e. major depressive disorder, or schizophrenia. Select a topic that is broad enough to provide adequate sources, but not so broad that it presents too much information for you to capture within the assignment page limitation. You should select a topic that is covered in this course, which is also outside of your specialization or familiarity (i.e., you or someone you know has the condition or it is a part of your workload case history).

* **Draft Abstract:**

Students will submit a draft abstract of the research topic they are planning to focus on during **week 8** of the course. The draft abstract should provide an overview of your topic and should include at least **three** peer-reviewed scientific journal articles (a reference page should be included). The draft abstract should be approximately **250-300 words**. You will submit the abstract through Canvas. This abstract will be worth 20 of the 120 total points you may receive for the paper.

**Rubric for draft abstract (20 points):**

1. **(1 point)** - Descriptive title (no title page is required in the draft abstract)
2. **(15 points)** - Overview of your topic
3. **(3 points)** - At least three peer-reviewed resources and a reference page
4. **(1 point)** - Word count: Maximum 300 words (not including title and references)

* **Final Paper:**

The final paper should be prepared in APA format (including double-spaced, with one-inch margins and in 12-point Times New Roman font) and be approximately **5-7** **pages** in length. This does not include your references and title page. Your references should include scholarly journals, the course text, and medically oriented Internet resources (i.e. NIH).

**Rubric for final paper (100 points):**

1. **(20 points)** - Description of your selected topic
   * E.g., prevalence rates, etiology, and other related background information.
2. **(30 points)** - Functional impact
   * E.g., implications of the functional impact for rehabilitation counselors in regard to consumer’s education, training and employment, and/or any specific issues related to vocational rehabilitation.
3. **(20 points)** - Strategies available to reduce the limitations
   * E.g., medical interventions and treatment, accommodations, and/or assistive technology, etc.!
4. **(10 points)** - Suggestions for future research
5. **(10 points)** - Conclusions
6. **(5 points)** - Use of APA format
   * Title page (1)
   * Running head (1)
   * Double-spaced and one-inch margins (1)
   * 12-point Times New Roman font (1)
   * Reference page (1)
7. **(5 points)** - Headings/subheadings
   * Your paper should include headings/subheadings for each specific section.