

Creativity and Resiliency in the Archives: Challenges in Uncovering the History of an Allied Health Sciences Division



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BACKGROUND

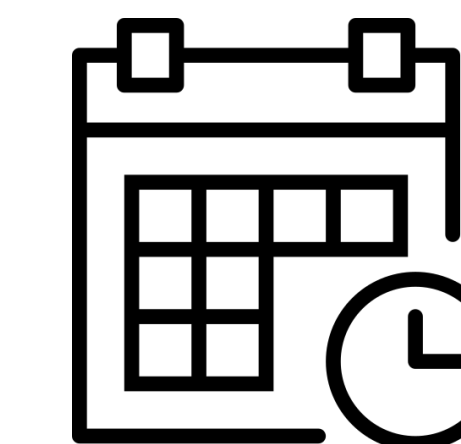
WHO: The division currently known as Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling (CRMH) division within the Department of Allied Health Sciences (DAHS), School of Medicine

WHAT: CRMH contacted the Health Sciences Library (HSL) to assist in discovering historical documents verifying milestones and key figures in its history.

- particular interest in earliest history, before division joined DAHS forming in the early 1970s
- hoped to find milestone date for anniversary celebration

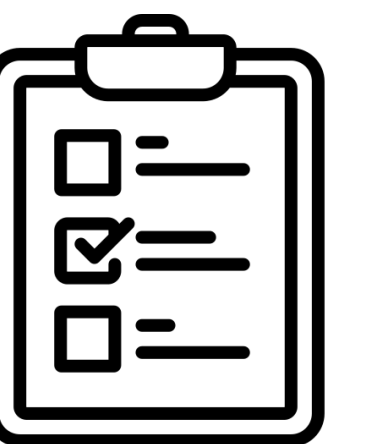
CHALLENGES

- Incomplete online archival finding aids
- Documents not consistently deposited in archive
- CRMH division changed names and moved between several departments/schools
- e.g. **Vocational Rehabilitation > Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling > Rehabilitation Counseling > Rehabilitation Counseling & Psychology**
- Other programs at UNC have similar names
- Requires hands-on research at remote location
- Discovery of information cannot be planned – difficult to set a deadline



NEXT STEPS

- Continue research
 - Call on expertise from archives staff
 - Expand search to other University units (e.g., School of Education)
 - Repeat earlier steps (as in Methods)
- Keep CRMH informed of progress and key findings
- Organize information for online guide useful to key stakeholders, including former, current, and prospective faculty, staff, students, and future researchers
- Add to existing online guide or create companion guide in compatible format



METHODS

RESOURCES:

- Online guide with timeline, key figures, historical documents on *overall* DAHS Department origins, created by former research assistant: <https://guides.lib.unc.edu/DAHSHistory>
- Archive finding aids
- Several names of early faculty provided by CRMH
- DAHS liaison, who worked with DAHS in the 1980s

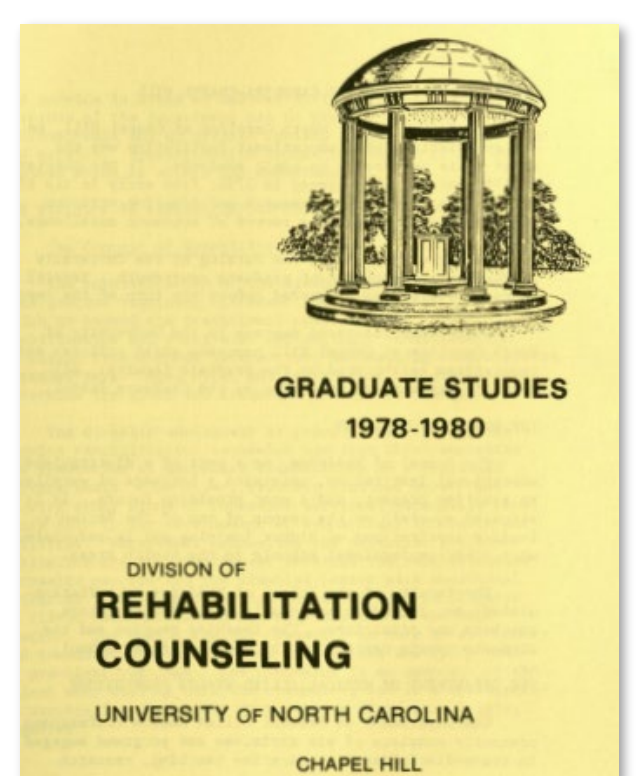
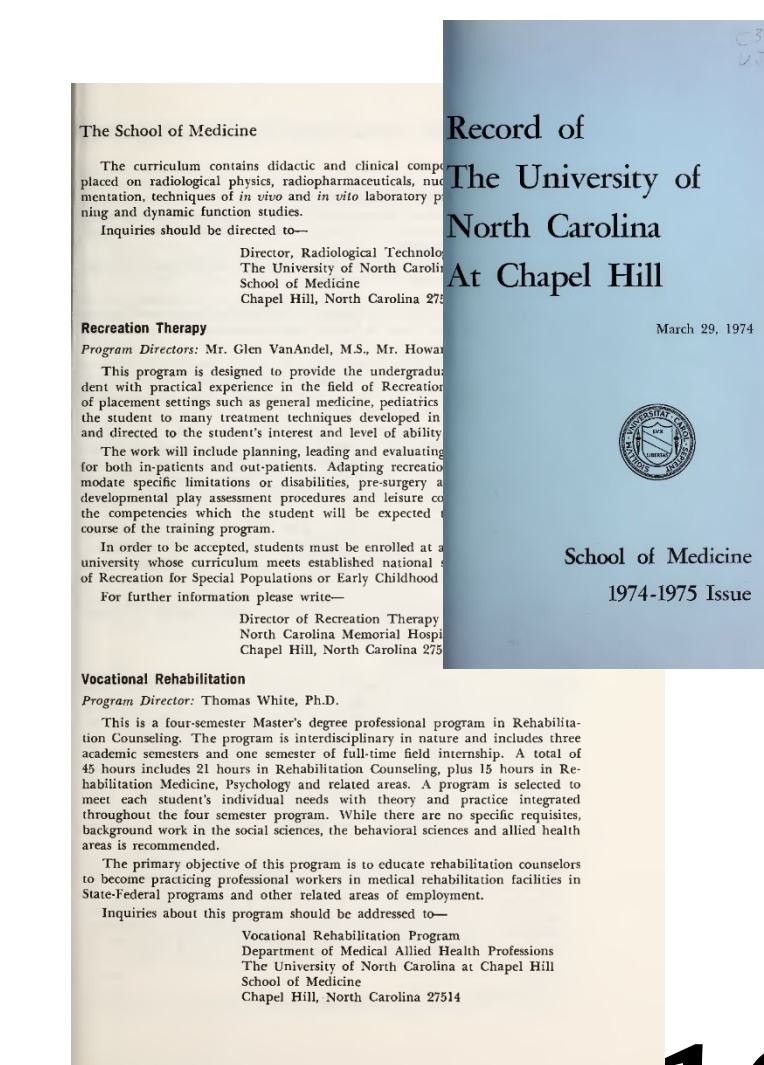
STEPS (completed and in progress):

- Interview DAHS liaison
- Locate primary materials using finding aids
- Select and digitize key documents
- Begin creating timeline: identify information gaps, strategize additional steps
- Share preliminary information with CRMH for feedback and to elicit additional information



Possibility of funding from the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1954 stimulates discussion of potential UNC rehabilitation training programs

March 1974
 The masters program seems to complete its move to the School of Medicine, Department of Medical Allied Health Professions in 1974. Or does it?



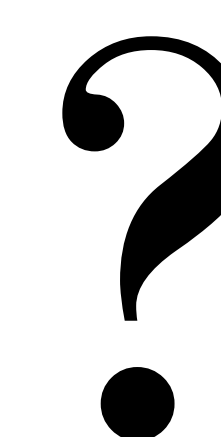
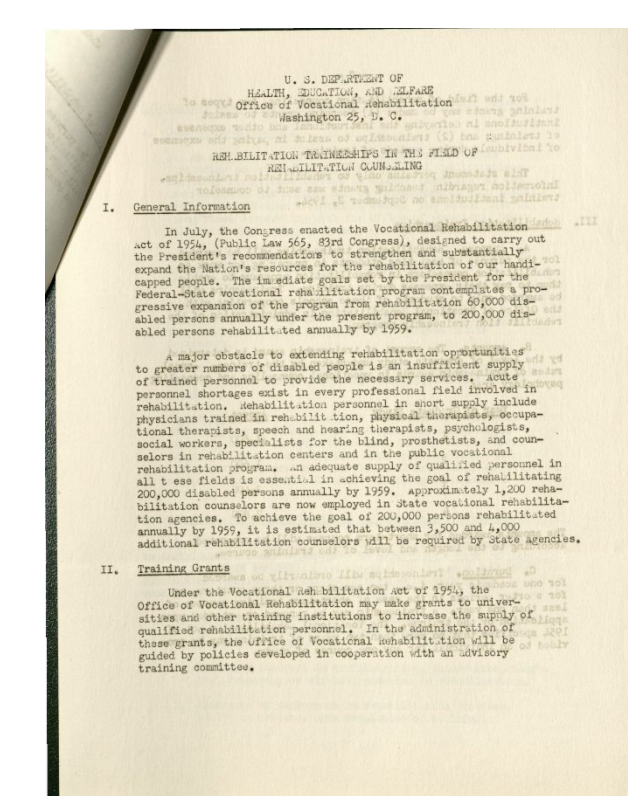
1954

1969-----197?
 Discussions of possible move of VR Counseling Program from School of Education to School of Medicine

1978

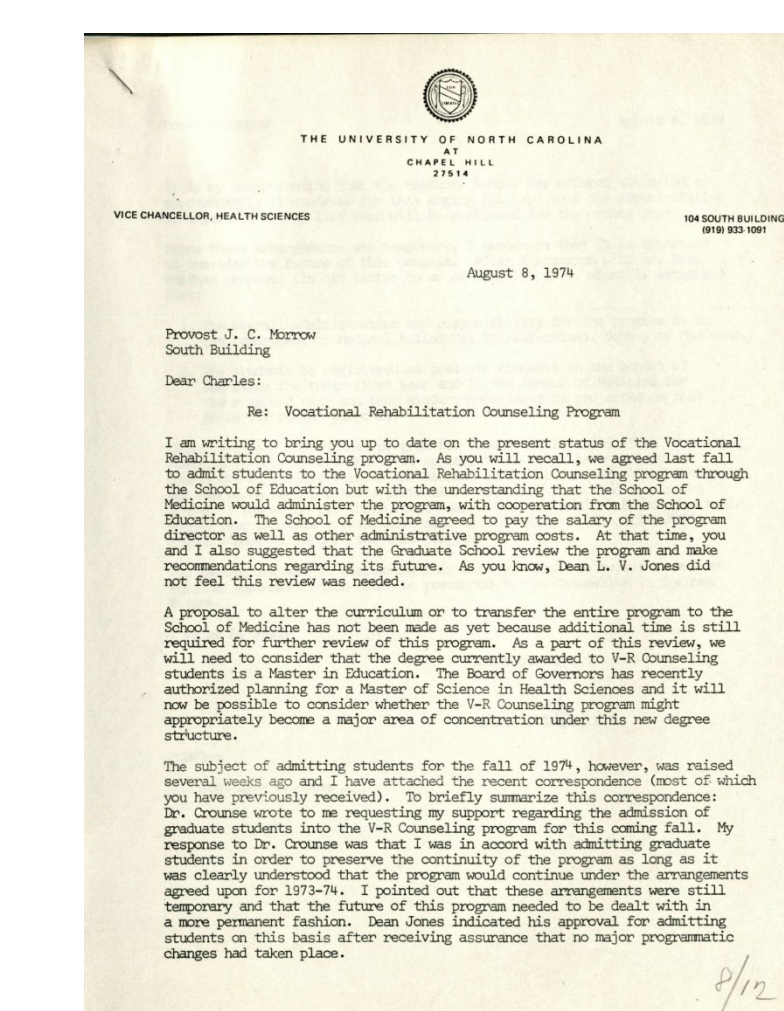
1954-late 1960s

Continue archival research to determine early history



1974

July and August 1974
 Move still under discussion



By 1978 the name of the division had changed to "Rehabilitation Counseling"