

# DENISE SILCOX

Denise.silcox@utrgv.edu

## PROFILE

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- A well presented and articulate person who works in a thorough and committed manner
- Quickly adapts to new systems and procedures
- Able to use own initiative and work as part of a team
- Conscientious and self-motivated
- Proven leadership skills, including managing and motivating others to achieve objectives
- An effective communicator at all levels who works efficiently when under pressure

## TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

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WALDEN UNIVERSITY, Doctorate in Human Services with a specialization in Counseling ABD.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, PAN AMERICAN  
**Master of Science, Rehabilitation Counselling**  
2003-2005

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, PAN AMERICAN  
**Bachelor of Arts, Psychology**  
2001-2003

### ADDITIONAL COURSES:

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS  
Applications in Animal Assisted Therapy

## LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS:

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Licensed Professional Counselor  
Licensed Professional Counselor - Supervisor  
Certified Rehabilitation Counselor

## CAREER HISTORY

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University of Texas Rio Grande Valley August 2015 to present  
Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Rehabilitation

University of Texas, Pan American August 2007 – 2015  
Clinical Assistant Professor, Dept. of Rehabilitation Counselling

Pura Vida Counselling Services Dec 2010- Sept. 2015

**Licensed professional counsellor**

Job Summary: provide mental health and substance abuse counselling

- Individual counseling with adults, adolescents and children
- Maintain adequate records
- Provide substance and psychosocial assessments to other agencies including CPS and DARS
- Specializing in animal assisted therapy for adolescents

Over the Rainbow Psychotherapy June, 2009 – Dec 2010

**Licensed professional counsellor**

Job Summary: provide mental health counselling

- Individual counseling with adults, adolescents and children
- Maintain adequate records
- Provide substance and psychosocial assessments to other agencies including CPS and DARS

RGV Council June 2006– October 2007

**Substance Abuse Counselor**

*Job Summary: Providing assessment, screening and treatment of adult and adolescent substance abusers.*

- Screen and assess clients to determine problems and appropriate treatment services.
- Create treatment plans, discharge plans and progress notes
- Lead didactic and educational groups twice weekly
- Do individual counseling and make appropriate referrals where needed.

*Ortega and Associates*

*July 2005 – June 2006*

**Counselor**

Job Summary: provide mental health counselling

- Individual counseling with adults, adolescents and children
- Maintain adequate records

UTPA, Dept of Rehabilitation Counseling

August 2004 – May 2005

**Graduate/Research Assistant**

*Main purpose of role: Assist professors with teaching, research projects and other duties.*

- Locate appropriate research materials and help create data collection system for research project
- Staff and oversee assessment lab
- Tutor and assist students as needed
- Assist with teaching when needed and mentor exams

## PRESENTATIONS

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Addictions Resource Project: The MacGyver Mentality	2015
Animals and Human Health, UTRGV	2015
Addiction Grant Project, UTPA Substance abuse and People with disabilities	2014
More Health, UTPA	2013
McAllen Public Library Community Education Program	2013
NCRE conference	2012
ADA Awareness Day, UTPA Edinburg Tx Service Animals yearly	2008-2014
ADA Awareness Day, STC, McAllen, Tx yearly	2007 - 2013
Breaking the Chain, People and Pets Coalition Conference, Harlingen Tx Health Benefits of Animals	2007
Health Workers Awareness Day, South Texas College, McAllen Tx	2006 & 2007
Examining the Link, People and Pets Coalition Conference, Brownsville, Tx Animal Assisted Therapy	2006
Association of Rehabilitation Educators Conference Tucson AZ Service Animals as Adaptive Interventions,	2005
Familia Fiesta Disability Conference, McAllen Tx Animals and Mental Retardation	2004

Guest Lectured in classes in the social work and rehabilitation departments at undergrad, Masters and Doctoral level as well as many student organizations.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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Silcox, D.; Castillo, Y.; Reed, B. (2014) The human animal bond: Applications for rehabilitation professionals. *Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling* (45) 3: 28-37

## **CLASSES TAUGHT**

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Introduction to Rehabilitation  
Introduction to Addictions Studies  
Vocational Assessment  
Psychology of Disability  
Animals in Rehabilitation and Health Care (designed curriculum)  
Assistive Technology  
Online Medical Terminology  
Family and Disability  
Undergraduate Practicum Supervisor  
Case Management (online)  
Practicum 1  
Practicum  
Clinical Issues in Addictions  
Multicultural Issues in Addictions.  
Assessment in Human Services (designed curriculum)

## **PERSONAL**

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Founder and President of WAGS (Wonderful Animals Giving Support) Therapy and Assistance Animals.

Licensed Pet Partner Instructor and Team Evaluator

PSICHI Honor Society

Deans Award for scholastic excellence.

Professional Organizations:

American Counseling Association  
American Rehabilitation Counseling Association  
Association for Creativity in Counseling

Animal Assisted Interventions International

## **References**

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Provided on request