Knowledge Enhancement Seminar Study Guide

1. The Vocational Expert

What is the role of the rehabilitation professional as a vocational expert, and how do different venues impact the required differences with regard to expectations of the expert? What are the needed qualifications, including knowledge and experience of specialty areas? This section provides both specific and general information regarding the role of the vocational expert (in social security, compensation, and legal cases).


2. Occupational Information

Occupational information is in a state of flux or stagnation - depending on one’s point of view. The aging Dictionary of Occupational Titles and the O*NET databases are discussed and compared with consideration given to alternation resources. The Heitzman et al. paper is an excellent discussion of the current status of the DOT with recommendations for a reasonable solution. The SSR 00-4p best defines the role of the VE (in SSA hearings) while encumbered with the obsolete DOT.


3. Vocational Testing and Evaluation

Vocational testing, assessment and/or evaluation is a critical component in the process of determining functional capacities of a person. Assessment may be an important source of information for the transferable analysis. For further reading assessment and evaluation, consult Maki and Tarvydas (Chap. 11), and Rubin and Roessler (Chap. 9).


4. Transferable Skills

Transferable skills analysis (TSAs) is an important part of the evaluation process for determining residual functioning, identifying related jobs, and providing the foundation for estimating future lost earnings. Understanding the TSA process and related occupational information is necessary in order to complete this task.

Author (no date). *Certification: Work product criteria*. Santa Cruz, CA: ABVE.


Other Areas of Expertise

Beyond the basics of the rehabilitation process, professionals may specialize in one or more areas of case development and planning. Included in this section are references for estimating lost employment and earnings, life care planning, hedonics, and ADA issues.


6. **Federal Rules, Case Law, and Discovery/Testimony** (legal cases and federal rules can be retrieved through Google)

An understanding of the federal rules is both critical and essential for the vocational professional who offers testimony in either hearings (SSA and Compensations venues), and state and federal courts. Especially important is to be knowledgeable of the rules for discovery and testimony. The Supreme Court trilogy (Daubert, Kumho, & Joiner) directly impact the nature of expert testimony with the emphasis being on acceptable methodology and foundations issues.


*Federal rules of evidence.*

*Federal rules of civil procedure.*


7. **Standards and Ethics**

All professional certifications require both knowledge and application in the area of ethics. Ethics, in and of itself, can help to keep the professional out of “trouble” in situations and issues requiring a correct understanding of what is appropriate and even legal. A good starting point to have a working knowledge of ethics is the ABVE Code and the Commission Casebook.


8. Foundation and Reference Texts

*This section addresses issues that are related more to the foundations of forensic rehabilitation consulting. Included here are general references which contain information on medical issues (anatomy, pain, statistics, forensic rehabilitation, life care planning, and employment). These resources are useful as general texts for information on a variety of topics related to the field.*


