

What is a Vocational Specialist?

Vocational Specialists help patients with injuries, disabilities, or impairments, find employment, request reasonable accommodations for existing job functions, or access meaningful community engagement through exploration of volunteer opportunities.

What is the role of the Vocational Specialist at the Complex Concussion Clinic?

At the Complex Concussion Clinic (CCC), the Vocational Specialist:

- Helps patients connect to resources and other agencies
- Supports clinical team in relating therapies to work goals
- Advocates for employee

For those who are not employed:

- Helps identify patient job goals (career exploration)
- Assists with resume development and job searches
- Expands on interview skills

For those who are employed:

- Coordinates plan for returning to work
- Helps patient understand clinical work recommendations
- Secures physician's release for return to work
- Negotiates job accommodations with employers
- Interacts with parties involved in a worker's compensation case

Benefits of Employment

- Provides financial stability (income and health benefits)
- Provides enjoyment
- Provides a sense of purpose and accomplishment
- Establishes a consistent routine

Benefits of Volunteering

- Can be a step to returning to work by preparing you for the physical, thinking, and social demands of work
- Offers flexible scheduling
- Can assist in career exploration
- Can help expand on hobbies



What might a Vocational Specialist session look like at CCC?

- Session activities vary based on each patient's needs and goals. Here are examples of things that might be addressed during a vocational session at CCC:
 - Create or refine resume
 - Career exploration
 - Discuss current work roles
 - Identify reasonable accommodations
 - Explore adaptive technology
 - Practice communication strategies

Additional Comments: