

APPLIED DISABILITY STUDIES



The applied disability studies program combines courses in educational foundations with courses in social sciences and business while preparing students to work in the rapidly expanding area of disability services, education support and advocacy organizations.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (B.A.)

Applied disability studies is a concentration within the Bachelor of Arts Multidisciplinary Studies (MDST) degree. This degree program is an innovative major centered in the liberal arts and sciences, and cultivates multidisciplinary perspectives within the University's established school and departmental structure. With careful guidance and academic advisement, students tailor their major to particular areas of strength and interests. The multidisciplinary studies coordinator directs the program and advocates on behalf of students enrolled in the major.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Protection and advocacy agencies
- Parent training and information centers
- State agencies for intellectual/developmental disabilities
- Self-advocacy association
- Community and family-support agencies
- University or college offices for students with disabilities
- Independent living centers
- Inclusive postsecondary education programs
- Human service organizations

CORE PROGRAMS

With advisement, students are provided an opportunity to tailor studies to better meet their academic strengths and career goals. Disability studies is an emerging interdisciplinary field of scholarship that critically examines issues related to the dynamic interplays between disability and various aspects of culture and society, including social services and government policy.

The MDST major with a concentration in applied disability studies has two core program tracks:

• Core Programs 1 (18 credits)

EDFN 211: Foundations of Modern Education
EDFN 241: Psychological Foundations of Teaching
SPED 237: Applied Foundations of Contemporary
SPED 330: Oppression and Discrimination

Choose One: EDFN 376: Whose School is It?, EDFN 312: Women & Education, EDFN 398: Urban Immersion

Choose One: EDSE 321/521: Issues in Secondary Education, SPED 434: Secondary Programing & Transition Planning
EDFN 355: Living online: Youth Conflict

• Core Programs 2 (18 credits)

SOWK 350: Encounters of Diversity

Choose One: SOWK 307 SW & Healthcare OR
SOWK 309: SW & Mental Health

Choose One: SOWK 312 Social Work and Women OR
SOWK 313 Family Violence

Choose Two: HIST 365: The Nightmare Years W, HIST 458: U.S. Social History W OR HIST 342: Hitler & Nazism

Choose One: HIST 480: History of Medicine, HIST 272: African American History Part I W, HIST 273: African American History Part II W

• Capstone Experience

Internship, Co-op or Research Seminar

REQUIRED RELATED COURSES

The business management focus is a key competency to the disability studies curriculum.

ECON 101: Macroeconomics, ECON 102: Microeconomics,
BAUD 251: Organization & Mgt



SAMPLE COURSES

Social Discrimination and Oppression - The Social, political and cultural realities of living as a person with a disability. Examines social discrimination through consideration of the policies and practices of societies. Creates and understanding of the social political and cultural, rather than the physical or psychological, determinants of the experience of disability. Disentangles impairments from the myths, ideology and stigma that influence social interaction and social policy. Through course content and activities, students will challenge the idea that the economic and social statuses and the assigned roles of people with disabilities are in the inevitable outcome of their condition.

Encounters of Diversity - An upper-level, multicultural, interdisciplinary, interactive course designed to enhance students' knowledge, skills and values relative to working with people in professional situations within a diversity-embracing atmosphere.

Urban Immersion - Intensive living-learning experience based in an urban setting. On-site experience in urban schools, communities and social service agencies is provided as well as service-learning experiences within the urban community. Professional development, individualized, and geared to developing the skills and knowledge base required to work effectively in urban communities is part of the experience.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Integrated Studies Student Mentoring Opportunities -

Integrated Studies is where individuals with intellectual disabilities can obtain a high-quality, individualized postsecondary education that will lead to social and professional networks, careers and bright futures. Disability studies students are invited to serve as mentors and participant scholars with students in this major.

ADAPT at Millersville - ADAPT at Millersville provides an opportunity for all students to become leaders and agents of change in a democratic process. ADAPT is a national grass-roots community that organizes disability rights activists to engage in nonviolent direct action, including civil disobedience, to assure the civil and human rights of people with disabilities to live in freedom.

EVENTS

Annual Global Well-Being and Social Change Conference -

Opportunities in the program extend to both winter and summer experiences. The Annual Global Well-Being and Social Change Conference developed by the School of Social Work, is a Learning Institute dedicated to investigating global social issues. The Learning Institute provides a platform from which experts share their knowledge and offer training for agents of social change. Each year, students have access to the conference and may collaborate with a faculty member to impact current or proposed research.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Student will demonstrate competency in understanding the biopsychosocial implications of disability and in producing interdisciplinary studies research questions and analyses.
- Student will learn to examine and critique enabling and disabling ideological assumptions that shape social institutions, professions, policies and systems of representation. Students will also demonstrate the ability to theoretically connect ideological assumptions about disability to those regarding gender, race, age, class, nationality and sexual orientations.
- Student will gain knowledge and understanding about disability history, rights, policies and contemporary issues, especially in terms of the way people with disabilities, through their own agency, advocacy and voice, have shaped conceptions of disability in specific historical and contemporary contexts.
- Student will demonstrate improved skills in working for people with disabilities, and increased ability to understand individual and family concerns.
- Student will demonstrate a broader awareness of the applicability of disability studies knowledge to a wide range of professions, and increase understanding of specific careers related to working with people with disabilities.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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