

MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES, B.A., APPLIED DISABILITY STUDIES OPTION

The framework for a Concentration in Applied Disability Studies combines courses in educational foundations with courses in social sciences and prepares students to work in the rapidly expanding area of disability services, education support and advocacy organizations. Employment opportunities exist in the government, business, and non-profit sectors. Regarding services for people with disabilities, for example, current Pennsylvania labor data reveals a need for middle level professionals with competencies in leadership, management and supports for people with disabilities.

CAREERS OPPORTUNITIES

Students are prepared to play leadership roles in the field of disability. Future careers include program director and policy positions in community service agencies, advocacy organizations, independent living centers, parent centers, planning councils, and government agencies.

- Protection and advocacy agencies
- Parent training and information centers
- State agencies for Intellectual/developmental disabilities
- Self-advocacy associations
- Community and family support agencies
- University or college offices for students with disabilities
- Independent living centers
- Inclusive Post-Secondary Education programs
- Human service organizations

Applied Disability Studies also prepare graduates to consult organizations on disability issues and pursue graduate degrees in Disability Studies, a multidisciplinary field of inquiry that draws on the experiences and perspectives of people with disabilities to address discrimination. Disability Studies scholarship explores the dynamic interplays between disability, culture, and society. Applied Disability Studies combines critical inquiry and political advocacy and enables students to apply scholarly approaches from the humanities, social sciences, and the arts to evaluate and address disability issues and support inclusion (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disability_studies (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disability_studies/)).

This curriculum combines specific vocational competencies with skills and practice in critical thinking and allows highly individualized career planning.

PROGRAM GOALS

These goals are conceptualized as the ultimate "ends" we hope to achieve in educating students and trainees in disability studies.

- Promote full social integration by providing knowledge, awareness, and experience of inclusion and integration of people with disabilities as a foundational ethical principle of disability studies.
- Position disability as a social justice issue by exposing students to historical and contemporary disability issues and providing learning opportunities to identify, articulate, and address inequities and injustices affecting the lives of people with disabilities.

- Position disability as diversity by providing theoretical and practical contexts for thinking about disability as a component of human diversity, and providing students with tools to critically examine social and cultural constructions of disability.
- Create circumstances for the analysis and knowledge of the human services system and its role in shaping the life experiences (segregated & integrated) of people with disability.
- To provide an understanding of the social, economic, historical, political, cultural, and legal forces that shape policy and practices in the field of disabilities

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The following list of learning outcomes represents key areas of expertise for all students graduating with an applied disability studies concentration.

- Students will demonstrate understanding of biopsychosocial implications of disability.
- Students will produce interdisciplinary disability studies research questions and analyses.
- Students will analyze and critique enabling and disabling ideological assumptions that shape social institutions, professions, policies, and systems of representation.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to theoretically connect ideological assumptions about disability to those regarding gender, race, age, class, nationality, and sexual orientation.
- Students will gain knowledge about disability history, rights, policies, and contemporary issues, especially in terms of the way people with disabilities, through their own agency, advocacy, and voices, have shaped conceptions of disability in specific historical and contemporary contexts.
- Students will demonstrate skills in working with people with disabilities, and increased ability to understand individual and family concerns.
- Students will apply disability studies to a wide range of professional contexts.

PROGRAM ADVISORS

Dr. Emily Baldys, Associate Professor (English)

Dr. Jessica Hughes, Associate Professor (Communications)

For more information visit: <https://www.millersville.edu/mdst/approved-programs/applied-disability-studies.php>

Multidisciplinary Studies(BA)- Ed & Human Services

Code	Title	Hours
APDS - PRACTICING WITHIN SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS		
EDFN 211	Foundations Modern Education	3
Psyc	Foundations of Teaching	3
EDFN 241	Psychological Foundations of Teaching	
SPED 237	Applied Foundations of Contemporary Special Education	3
SPED 330	Discrimination and Oppression of People with Disabilities	3
Whose School Is it?, Women Ed, or Urban Immers - Choose 1 of the following:		
EDFN 376	Whose School Is It?	
EDFN 312	Women and Education	
EDFN 398	Urban Immersion Seminar	

Issues Sec Ed, Sec Prog Trans Plan, or Living Online - Choose 1 of the following: 3

EDSE 321	Issues in Secondary Education	
EDSE 521	Issues in Second Education	
SPED 444	Transition Planning and Secondary Programming for Individuals with Disabilities	
EDFN 355	Living Online	

APDS - DISABILITY RIGHTS, HISTORY AND SOCIAL POLICY

SOWK 350 Encounters in Human Diversity 3

Social Work Health Care or SOWK Mental Health - Choose 1 of the following: 3

SOWK 307	Social Work and Health Care	
SOWK 309	SOWK Behavior & Emotion Health	

Social Work Women or Family Violence - Choose 1 of the following: 3

SOWK 312	SOWK & Wmn: Strgth, Need & Opp	
SOWK 313	Family Violence	

Nightmare Years, US Social History and Hitler Nazism

Select 2 classes from HIST 342, 365 and 458. However, HIST 365 and 458 have been discontinued. Please work with your advisor to select alternate courses to substitute for this requirement.

History of Medicine, African American History I or II - Choose 1 of the following: 3

HIST 480	History of Medicine	
HIST 272	Afro-American History 1	
HIST 273	Afro-American History 2	

APDS - REQUIRED CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE

undefined - Choose 1 class from:

Any 300 course(s)		
Any 400 course(s)		
EDFN 498	Independent Study (Capstone in Disability Studies)	

A 2.0 GPA must be maintained in the overall major block and in each of the two Core areas, 'Practicing within Social Institutions' and 'Disability Rights, History and Social Policy'

Total Hours 30

Req Related for Multidisciplinary Studies - Educ

Code	Title	Hours
Recommended Electives for Applied Disability Studies		
These courses are not required but are recommended and will fulfill the Social Sciences (G3) requirement for General Education.		
ECON 101	Principles of Macroeconomics (G3)	0
ECON 102	Principles of Microeconomics (G3)	0
BUAD 251	Principles of Management (G3)	0
Total Hours		0