

# DISABILITY STUDIES

FALL 2006

## IS DISABILITY STUDIES THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR YOU?

### What is included in the field of disability studies?

Disability studies incorporates a set of principles based on the "Chicago Model":

1. Disability is a part of the continuum of human experience; everyone has some experience with disability at some point in their lives;
2. Disability should be studied with an understanding of historical, cultural, and social contexts;
3. Disability experience is formed through complex interactions between bodies and environments; environmental barriers can be more disabling than physiology;
4. Disability studies moves beyond a medical model of disability to consider interdisciplinary, community,

and consumer-based approaches;

5. Disability studies promotes an understanding of social policies that empower or prevent people with disabilities from attaining full citizenship;
6. Disability studies supports the full participation of disabled people in academia and the professions.

rehabilitation contexts. It may also lead to employment in organizations promoting disability rights advocacy and activism.

### What is the salary range for people employed in disability related fields?

Depending upon your particular interests in disability services or activism, entry level salaries range from \$25,000 to \$40,000.

### What work is done by people who have disability studies training and where do they work?

The Disability Studies concentration prepares students at the bachelor level to immediately assume entry-level managerial positions in developmental or physical disability services, independent living centers, mental health centers, geriatric and vocational reha-

### What else should I know?

An undergraduate concentration in disability studies provides an excellent preparation for students interested in graduate study in disability studies, rehabilitation counseling, physical and occupational therapy, social welfare, medicine, psychology, and many other fields.



*"The Health Science curriculum exposes students to the knowledge and skill sets traditionally reserved for the first years of employment. Such increased awareness enables our students to assume leadership roles in disability services at a quicker pace, benefiting future employers and improving the lives of people with disabilities everywhere."*

- Sharon Cuff, LMSW, Clinical Assistant Professor, Health Science major

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### What are the requirements for the Disability Studies concentration?

Health Science students take the major's core courses during the fall semester of the senior year.

During the spring semester, students will take specialized courses including:

- **Aging and Disability:** An overview of aging and disability. Includes the field of geriatrics, age-related disabilities, and the experiences of people with disabilities as they age. Coursework also presents interdisciplinary perspectives by incorporating social, environmental, cultural, economic and historical issues related to disability and aging.

- **Disability Health and Community:** An overview of health and community concerns experienced by people with disabilities. Students are exposed to historical analysis, biomedical discourse, cultural critique, and field research to understand the evolution of medical practices, cultural beliefs, and social structures influencing the treatments, services, and opportunities available to people with disabilities in the United States and internationally.
- **Children with Disabilities:** An overview of the theories of child development and issues related to children with developmental spectrum disorders, neurodevelopmental disorder, and communication and learning disorders. Includes behavioral, developmental, language, medical, motor and sensory needs of children with

developmental disabilities.

- **Disability and Employment:** An overview of the disability and employment field. Students explore employment-related legislation, the vocational rehabilitation system, existing governmental and not-for-profit programs, and current disability employment practices. Emphasis will be on the key roles of placement professionals.
- **Project in Disability Studies:** Students develop independent projects in topic areas of disability studies. They will develop a set of readings and engage in at least 15 hours of experiential learning. Students will meet bi-weekly in groups with instructors, and by appointment with mentors.

Advising sessions are conducted on both campuses, as early as possible, to assess student interest and provide information on prerequisites. For additional information about the major please contact:

Traci Thompson—Advising	Régine Verrier—Advising
HSC, Level 2, Room 453	• Mon/Fri, HSC, L2, Rm 453
Phone: 631.444.2407	Phone: 631.444.6858
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	Phone: 631.632.4689

#### OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

[www.uhmc.sunysb.edu/shtm](http://www.uhmc.sunysb.edu/shtm)



#### HOW TO BECOME A HEALTH SCIENCE STUDENT

Students can declare the Health Science major at any time during their academic career. All major courses are taken during the senior year.

- In order to begin your senior year courses in the major, you must have a G.P.A. of at least 2.0 and have successfully completed 91 credits.
- You must also have met all D.E.C. requirements, including at least 16 credits in natural sciences (D.E.C. E), 21 credits of related electives, and 10 upper division credits.
- Successful completion of the following courses during the fall semester of your senior year is required:

**Health Care Issues**  
**Professional Ethics and Health Care**  
**Communications Skills**  
**Professional Writing**  
**Health Informatics**

**Medical Terminology** (2 credit elective may be taken)

Additional pre-requisites based on your area of interest may be required.

#### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, VISIT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES:

##### Professional Organizations

- Disability Studies Quarterly

[www.dsqsds.org](http://www.dsqsds.org)

- The World Institute on Disability

[www.wid.org](http://www.wid.org)

##### Occupational and Employment Information

[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

[salary.com](http://salary.com)

[www.salary.monster.com](http://www.salary.monster.com)

[www.labor.state.ny.us](http://www.labor.state.ny.us)

