

# DISABILITY STUDIES & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

REV. 2015

## IS DISABILITY STUDIES & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT 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.

independent living centers, mental health centers, geriatric and vocational 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 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

### 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,

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### "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

### 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:** Provides comprehensive overview of aging and disability. Includes introduction to the field of geriatrics, age related disabilities, and the experiences of people with disabilities as they age. Presents an interdisciplinary perspective. Incorporates social, environmental, cultural, economic and historical issues related to disability and aging. Film, narrative, biography and guest speakers provide students with first-hand accounts of elders with disabilities. Restricted to students approved for appropriate senior year track in the Health Science major.
- **Disability Health and Community:** Presents a comprehensive view of health and community concerns experienced by people with disabilities. Explores 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 State and internationally. Includes gender, sexuality, race, poverty, "invisible disabilities", eugenic sterilization, assisted suicide topics. Guest speakers will facilitate a multi-layered understanding of the issues faced by people with disabilities and their families. Restricted to students approved for appropriate senior year track in the Health Science major.

- **Children with Disabilities:** Provides a comprehensive overview of the theories of child development and issues related to children with developmental spectrum disorders, neurodevelopmental disorders, and communication and learning disorders. Includes behavioral, developmental, language, medical, motor and sensory needs of children with developmental disabilities. Restricted to students approved for appropriate senior year track in the Health Science major.
- **Disability and Employment:** Presents a comprehensive overview of the Disability and Employment field. Explores pertinent employment-

related legislation, the vocational rehabilitation system, the structure of existing governmental and not-for-profit programs, and current disability employment practices, through the use of didactic and experiential techniques. Emphasizes the key roles of placement professionals. Provides individualized learning opportunities for individuals with disabilities who happen to be job seeking. Restricted to students approved for appropriate senior year track in the Health Science major.

- **Project in Disability Studies:** Students will develop independent projects in topic area of disability studies. They will be required to develop a set of reading, engage in a minimum of 45 hours of experiential learning (in the form of community site-visits, volunteerism, or internships). Course instructors and assigned mentors will assist students during bi-weekly group meetings and by scheduled appointments. Restricted to students approved for appropriate senior year track in the Health Science major.

To declare Health Science as your major, you are **required** to attend an Advising Workshop. To schedule an appointment, please email Jennifer Jimenez at [jennifer.jimenez.1@stonybrook.edu](mailto:jennifer.jimenez.1@stonybrook.edu).

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**OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:**

<http://healthtechnology.stonybrookmedicine.edu/programs/hs>

**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 and have met all D.E.C/S.B.C requirements
  - \* except TECH SBC requirement which will be satisfied during the senior year
  - \* at least 16 credits in sciences, which must include HAN 200 and HAN 202 sequence, or equivalent sequence (ask advisor for information)
  - \* 21 credits of related electives, which must include HAN 251 and HAN 312
  - \* 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**  
**Communication Skills**  
**Professional Writing**  
**Health Informatics**



**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)
- [www.salary.com](http://www.salary.com)
- [www.salary.monster.com](http://www.salary.monster.com)
- [www.labor.state.ny.us](http://www.labor.state.ny.us)