

Disability and Human Development

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Administration:

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Program Codes:

20FS1165MS, 6021 (Disability Studies Concentration), 6022 (Assistive Technology Concentration)

The Department of Disability and Human Development (DHD) offers work leading to the Master of Science in Disability and Human Development. Study and research are available in the concentrations of:

1. Disability Studies
2. Assistive Technology

An interdepartmental concentration in Gender and Women's Studies is available to students in this program. The program articulates closely with the PhD program in Disability Studies. For further information on the Doctor of Philosophy in Disability Studies, see [Disability Studies](#) in the *College of Applied Health Sciences* section of the catalog.

Admission and Degree Requirements

- [MS in Disability and Human Development](#)

DHD 400. Disability and Human Development Capstone. 1 hour.

Students work with advocacy, research and/or policy organizations to apply the knowledge they gained through disability and human development coursework in a practical setting that addresses issues related to people with disabilities. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): DHD 101. Open only to juniors and seniors. And at least 6 additional credit hours of disability and human development coursework must be completed.

DHD 401. Disability, Human Development and Community Participation. 3 hours.

Surveys foundational concepts and issues in disability studies and human development. Students will develop a framework for understanding disability from a multi-disciplinary perspective. Course Information: Taught online. Prerequisite(s): Students enrolled in the BS in Disability and Human Development: DHD 101 and at least 6 additional hours of disability and human development coursework must be completed or consent of the instructor; Graduate students: no prerequisites.

DHD 402. Historical Issues in Disability and Disease. 3 hours.

Explores the central place of disability and disease in modern history. Sample topics Include: histories of deafness, eugenics, mental illness, intellectual disabilities, and constructions of disease. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Junior standing or above; or consent of the instructor. Recommended background: DHD 101 and an additional six credit hours of DHD coursework.

DHD 403. Disability in Latino Communities. 3 hours.

Designed to examine the distinct needs of Latino families and communities in the US and in Latin American countries, and their experiences with disabilities.

DHD 404. Disability, Sexuality, and Health. 3 or 4 hours.

Explores how political, social, and cultural systems as well as historical contexts shape understandings and experiences of disability, sexuality, and health. Course Information: Same as GWS 404. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite(s): Junior standing or above; or consent of the instructor.

DHD 405. Analysis of the Americans with Disabilities Act. 3 or 4 hours.

Examination of the history and implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Analyzes and evaluates the effectiveness of the legislation in promoting and protecting the civil rights of people with disabilities. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Previously listed as DHD 563. Prerequisite(s): DHD 101 or DHD 201; or graduate standing; or consent of the instructor.

DHD 406. Disability and Work. 3 or 4 hours.

Explores the complex relationship between disability and work within the U.S. Student will learn about debates and interventions surrounding the role, ability, and capability of people with disabilities to work. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite(s): Junior standing or above; or consent of the instructor. Recommended background: DHD 101 and an additional 6 credit hours of coursework in Disability and Human Development.

DHD 407. Cultural Politics of Disability and Health. 3 or 4 hours.

Examines the construction and circulation of knowledge about bodies, health, medicine and impairment from a disability studies perspective. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Junior standing or above.

DHD 408. Disability Through the Lifecourse. 3 hours.

Provides an overview of varying approaches to the study of disability through the life course from early childhood to adulthood and aging. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Junior standing or above; or consent of the instructor.

DHD 409. Disability Legal Studies. 2 hours.

An interdisciplinary approach to key debates, theories, research, and practices related to disability and law within the critical framework of Disability Legal Studies. Course Information: Taught online.

DHD 420. Mental Health, Asian Americans, and Community Engagement. 3 or 4 hours.

In partnership with Chicago's Asian American communities and using community engagement methodologies, this course will offer an interdisciplinary, team-approach to explore taboo-related mental health issues. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

DHD 440. Introduction to Assistive Technology: Principles and Practice. 3 hours.

Principles and exemplary practice of assistive technology used by individuals with disabilities, including augmentative communication, seating, mobility, computer access, environmental control, home modifications, and worksite modifications. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Graduate standing or consent of the instructor. Recommended background: Undergraduate enrolled in health sciences, education, or engineering and working professionals seeking to develop assistive technology as an area of concentration.

DHD 441. Adaptive Equipment Design and Fabrication. 3 hours.

Examination of the interaction between design and disability, through comparison of appropriate design theories, materials, and work on consumer-based issues. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Graduate standing; or DHD 440 and consent of the instructor. Recommended background: Undergraduates enrolled in health sciences, education, or engineering, or working professionals seeking to develop assistive technology as an area of concentration.

DHD 494. Special Topics in Disability and Human Development. 1-4 hours.

Systematic study of selected topics in disability and human development. Course Information: May be repeated. Students may register in more than one section per term. Prerequisite(s): Graduate standing or consent of the instructor.

DHD 501. Disability Studies I. 4 hours.

Provides analysis of contemporary classification and diagnosis systems for disability as well as the conceptual foundations for disability studies as a content area. Course Information: Previously listed as DIS 501.

DHD 502. Disability Studies II. 4 hours.

Current approaches and practices in disability studies, critically considered from a variety of perspectives. Service delivery systems and the influence that civil rights and self determination have had. Course Information: Previously listed as DIS 502. Prerequisite(s): DHD 501.

DHD 505. Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities I. 4 hours.

Introduces students to issues related to disabilities, including leadership, public health, interdisciplinary training and practice, emerging issues, cultural competence, family centered care, and research. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Approval of the Department.

DHD 506. Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities II. 3 hours.

Emphasizes the leadership competencies of the MCH Bureau pertaining to disability issues: MCH knowledge, cultural competency, family-centered care, interdisciplinary team-building, community and systems, and policy and advocacy. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): DHD 505 Students must be accepted into the Illinois Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities (LEND) program.

DHD 510. Concepts in Interdisciplinary Research on Disability. 3 hours.

Core concepts and methodologies of the major research traditions used in disability research.

DHD 514. Ethical Issues in Disability. 2-3 hours.

Examines contemporary ethical issues affecting the lives of persons with disabilities and disability professionals. Critiques the application of ethical principles to problems of genetics, treatment decisions and competency. Course Information: Extensive computer use required.

DHD 515. Statistical Methods and SPSS in Disability Research. 3 hours.

Designed to provide an overview of statistical methods used in disability and disability related research and give students SPSS hands-on experience to analyze quantitative data. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): An introductory course in statistics.

DHD 517. Ethics and Disability: Contemporary Problems. 2 or 3 hours.

Ethical theories and ethical decision-making are examined from an interdisciplinary disability studies perspective in relation to people with disabilities. Topics include assisted suicide, de-institutionalization, and genetic discrimination. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): DHD 514 or consent of the instructor.

DHD 520. Disability and Physical Activity. 3 hours.

Examination of the foundations of physical activity for persons with disabilities. Emphasis on strategies for promoting physical activity among persons with disabilities in community settings. Course Information: Same as KN 520.

DHD 526. Family Perspectives on Disability. 3 hours.

Examines trends, theories and research methods, policies, and family centered intervention approaches for families of persons with disabilities. Course Information: Same as CHSC 526. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor.

DHD 528. Race, Culture, and Health Disparities. 2-3 hours.

Focuses on developing students'™ critical thinking skills as they relate to race, health disparities and engaging in culturally responsive care. Course Information: Same as KN 538 and OT 528. Students registering for 3 hours of credit complete an immersion activity and a research paper. Prerequisite(s): Graduate standing and consent of the instructor.

DHD 530. Disability Oppression and Resistance. 3 hours.

Combines social theory that addresses a wide variety of disability studies concerns (ideology, oppression, empowerment, consciousness, and the body) with approaches on how best to use these theories to analyze the disability experience.

DHD 535. Advocacy and Empowerment in Disability. 3 hours.

In-depth review of academic literature on advocacy and empowerment. Relevant theories, research, and interventions in the context of individuals with disabilities will be reviewed.

DHD 537. Disability and Health Promotion. 3 hours.

Examines health issues in disability with emphasis on health promotion and preventing secondary disease. Relationship of emerging theories of health promotion to disability are discussed.

DHD 538. Disability and Health Promotion II. 3 hours.

Health promotion evaluation issues pertaining to people with disabilities will be critiqued and analyzed in relationship to application and usability. The content will build upon basic concepts discussed in DHD 537. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): DHD 537.

DHD 541. Advanced Concepts in Disability Research. 3 hours.

Seminar-based applications of advanced scholarship skills. Topics covered include problem formulation, manuscript development, and critical reviews.

DHD 542. Advanced Concept in Disability Research II. 3 hours.

Second course of a 2 seminar sequence developing advanced scholarship skills. Topics include methodological implications, relationship of tradition of inquiry to data and its analysis, and limits of interpretation within the research paradigms. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): DHD 541.

DHD 543. Program Evaluation: Documenting the Impact of Human Services. 3 hours.

Examines methods in program evaluation with emphasis on empowerment and participatory evaluation. Students will study quantitative and qualitative strategies, how to communicate information to stakeholders, and how to design evaluations. Course Information: Same as OT 553. Recommended background: Interest in research, health or behavioral sciences, and implementation and evaluation of community initiatives and community-based organizations.

DHD 544. Assistive Technology in Early Childhood Settings. 2 hours.

The legal foundations, family-centered approaches, and tools to support participation in home- and play-based activities for children 0-5 years of age. Course Information: Extensive computer use required.

DHD 545. Leadership in the Non-Profit Disability Organization. 3 hours.

Applications in management and leadership in the non-profit disability agency. Focus on employee motivation, recruitment, retention, fiscal management, long-range planning, board development and succession planning.

DHD 546. Qualitative Methods in Disability Research. 4 hours.

Examines qualitative research methods, design, data collection, analysis, and report-writing. Issues of ethical conduct, power relationships, and collaborative approaches.

DHD 547. Analysis and Comparison of For-Profit and Non-Profit Organizations. 3 hours.

Organizational theory applied to non-profit disability agencies. Review and evaluation of theoretical models of organizations, authority, management, and budgeting.

DHD 548. Assistive Technology Tools in the PK-12 Educational Setting. 3 hours.

Explores a range of tool features, specific products, and training strategies to support active participation and learning in educational settings for students ages 3-22 with high and low incidence disabilities. Course Information: Extensive computer use required. Recommended Background: Experience working in special education as an educator, paraprofessional or related service provider (e.g., OT, PT, SLP).

DHD 549. 3D Printing for Assistive Technology Applications. 1 hour.

3D printing is an emerging tool within Assistive Technology (AT). Covers the basics of 3D printing in AT for customizing and fabricating low-cost adaptive devices without needing to own a 3D printer.

DHD 550. Technology to Support Universal Design for Learning in K-12. 1 hour.

Provides an introduction to universal design for learning (UDL) and technology to support the 3 main areas: multiple means of engagement, multiple means of representation, and multiple means of expression. Course Information: Extensive computer use required.

DHD 551. Computers, Communication and Controls in Rehabilitation Technology. 3 hours.

Provides information on operation and use of alternative controls for computers, augmentative communication devices and powered mobility. Emphasis on matching consumer's need and assistive technology. Course Information: Same as OT 551. Prerequisite(s): DHD 440. Recommended background: Speech-Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Special Education.

DHD 553. Assistive Technology for Individuals Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired. 1 hour.

An overview of assistive technology for people who are blind or visually impaired, including screen magnification software, screen reading software, OCR software, braille technologies, low vision devices, and smart phone/tablet accessibility. Course Information: Meets 5 weeks of the semester. Recommended background: DHD 440 and basic computer and smartphone literacy.

DHD 554. Augmentative Communication Assessment. 3 hours.

Augmentative communication assessment strategies and evaluation of materials development. Utilizes case examples for discussion of specific approaches for different ages, disabilities, and settings. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): DHD 440. Recommended background: Speech-Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Special Education.

DHD 555. Consideration, Assessment and Documentation of Assistive Technology in PreK-12 Educational Setting. 3 hours.

An introduction to the delivery of assistive technology (AT) services in the PreK-12 educational setting. Includes the legal foundation, models of AT service delivery, and practical components of AT consideration, assessment, and documentation. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): DHD 440.

DHD 556. Seating and Positioning for Wheelchair Mobility. 1 hour.

Focuses on assessment of seating & positioning for functional use of a manual/powered wheelchair for those with physical disabilities. Assessment procedures, technology selection, funding, & applicable research are covered. Course Information: Extensive computer use required. Taught online. Prerequisite(s): DHD 440; or consent of the instructor.

DHD 557. Manual and Powered Wheelchair Technologies. 2 hours.

Covers manual and powered wheelchair designs and components used by individuals with physical disabilities. Performance adjustments, access methods, electronics, transportation standards, securement systems, funding and related research are included. Course Information: Taught online over a consecutive 10 week period. Prerequisite(s): DHD 556; and consent of the instructor. Recommended background: Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech-Language Pathology, Special Education, Engineering.

DHD 558. Powered Wheelchair Technology. 1 hour.

Covers the designs and features of powered mobility devices for people with physical disabilities. Power seat functions, assessment procedures, access methods, electronics, programming and applicable research are covered. Course Information: Extensive computer use required. Meets 5 weeks of the semester. Prerequisite(s): DHD 556; and DHD 557; or consent of the instructor. Recommended background: Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech-Language Pathology, Special Education, Engineering.

DHD 559. Ergonomics and Safety for Workers with Disabilities. 1 hour.

The course highlights various aspects of reasonable accommodation at jobsites, including the provision of ergonomic equipment, modified and custom-tools, computer workstations, environmental features, and emergency evacuation equipment. Course Information: Extensive computer use required. Meets 5 weeks of the semester. Recommended background: DHD 440.

DHD 561. Disability and Community Participation: Policy, Systems Change and Action Research. 4 hours.

Focuses on the critical examination of disability policy, activism, and research. Emphasis on conducting participatory action research in collaboration with constituents with disabilities, community organizations, and policy makers. Course Information: Same as OT 561. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor. Recommended background: Previous coursework in disability policy, disability empowerment research and qualitative research.

DHD 562. Built in Accessibility Features of Computers and Smart Devices. 1 hour.

Focuses on accessibility options that are built into the Windows and Mac Operating systems as well as accessibility options built into the iOS and Android (multiple platforms) systems. Course Information: Extensive computer use required. Meets 5 weeks of the semester.

DHD 564. Community Integration in Developmental Disabilities. 3 hours.

Historical and contemporary issues pertaining to the empowerment and integration of persons with developmental disabilities into community settings. Course Information: Same as CHSC 564. Provides an analysis of the historical and current approaches to the treatment of persons with disabilities within institutions and the natural community. It provides an important perspective for the understanding of current research issues, services systems, public policies, legislation, and litigation pertaining to disability. It is relevant to all specializations in the Disability and Human Development and Disability Studies programs.

DHD 565. Research Methodology and Outcomes Measures in Rehabilitation Technology. 3 hours.

Analyzes the research process in rehabilitation technology and assistive technology and how such analysis leads to the development of a research proposal. Outcome measures related to assistive technology will be evaluated for their applicability. Course Information: Same as OT 565. Recommended background: Engineering, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Special Education, and Speech and Language Pathology.

DHD 566. Introduction to Microcontrollers in Assistive Technology. 2 hours.

Introduces students to entry-level electronics utilizing microcontrollers. Students are guided in constructing projects with an Assistive Technology focus (i.e., adaptive switches, alternate computer input controls and EADL devices). Course Information: Extensive computer use required. Prerequisite(s): DHD 440; or consent of the instructor. Class schedule information: To be properly registered, students must enroll in one Lecture and one Laboratory-Discussion.

DHD 567. Augmentative and Alternative Communication for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder. 2 hours.

Explores augmentative communication methods and intervention strategies for individuals with autism spectrum disorders. Course Information: Taught online. Extensive computer use required. Prerequisite(s): DHD 440; or consent of the instructor. Recommended Background: Minimum bachelors degree in communication disorders, occupational therapy, psychology, special education or a related field.

DHD 568. Supporting Augmentative and Alternative Communication in Educational Settings. 3 hours.

Explores instruction and intervention strategies that can be used in inclusive K-12 settings to aid language and educational growth for students who use augmentative communication systems. Course Information: Taught online. Extensive computer use required. Prerequisite(s): DHD 440; or consent of the instructor. Recommended Background: Minimum bachelors degree in communication disorders, occupational therapy, psychology, special education or a related field.

DHD 569. Environmental Modification. 1 hour.

The course highlights accessibility changes to public and private spaces, especially housing, which are needed due to the Americans with Disabilities Act, age-in-place trends, and community integration initiatives of individuals with disabilities. Course Information: Extensive computer use required. Meets 5 weeks of the semester. Recommended background: DHD 440.

DHD 570. Disability and Culture. 3 hours.

Development of a cultural comparative approach in disability studies; American and cross-cultural aspects of disability; imagery of disability; disability and the body: gender and life-course issues, cultures of disability. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): DHD 401 or consent of the instructor.

DHD 572. Modern History of Disability in the United States and around the World. 4 hours.

Explores several aspects of disability experiences in modern America and around the world. The course will focus on case studies and themes in the disability experience during the late 19th through the 21st centuries. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Graduate or professional standing.

DHD 573. Disability and Global Health. 2 or 3 hours.

Focuses on disability and health equity in a global context. The course addresses disability-related health disparities and their determinants in the context of global poverty, development aid and humanitarian crises. Course Information: Same as OT 563. Recommended background: DHD 202.

DHD 574. Knowledge Translation for Disability and Rehabilitation. 3 hours.

Using an equity focused model, students will form knowledge translation collaboratives to both learn and apply knowledge translation principles for advocacy, education, and clinical practice. Course Information: Same as OT 571. Prerequisite(s): OT 510; or DHD 510; and consent of the instructor.

DHD 576. Visualizing the Body. 4 hours.

Survey of key moments in the representational life of disability in film. Film portrayals of disability will be analyzed from the perspective of narrative theory, film grammar, and social history. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Graduate or professional standing.

DHD 578. Learning, Teaching, Curriculum Design, Delivery and Evaluation. 0-4 hours.

Using didactic material and experiential learning, students learn about teaching philosophy and strategies, learning theories, and curriculum design. Students design, deliver and evaluate effective teaching and learning in a variety of contexts. Course Information: Same as OT 568. May be repeated to a maximum of 4 hours. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor. Class Schedule Information: To be properly registered, students must enroll in one Lecture-Discussion and one Practice.

DHD 581. Disability Policy. 2 hours.

Provides a foundation of disability policy from a disability studies perspective. Introduces key disability policies, political/ideological approaches, and policymaking processes. Course Information: This is an online course.

DHD 582. Disability Policy II: Contemporary Issues in Disability Policy. 3 hours.

An overview of contemporary policies, legislation and issues relating to people with disabilities across a range of policy areas. Focus on historical, political, legal, social, economic and cultural forces that shape policies and practices. Course Information: This course has a required online component for all students. Prerequisite(s): DHD 581.

DHD 583. Methodology in Disability Policy. 3 hours.

An introduction to the tools and techniques of comparative policy analysis relating to disability policy and legislation. Focuses on both analytical and practical components of methodology in disability policy. Course Information: This course has a required online component for all students. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor.

DHD 584. International Human Rights, Policy and Disability. 3 hours.

Provides an overview of international human rights, policy and disability. Focus on historical, moral, legal and economic discourses of human rights for people with disabilities. Emphasis on comparative analysis of rights, policy and disability. Course Information: This course has an online component for all students. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor.

DHD 589. Current Research in Disability Studies. 1 hour.

A review of the current primary source literature in the area of disability research. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. May be repeated to a maximum of 10 hours. Previously listed as DIS 589. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor.

DHD 590. Field Experience in Disability and Human Development. 0-12 hours.

Opportunities for guided experience working with agencies, families, and persons with disabilities providing concrete, practical applications of concepts and principles of disability and human development. Course Information: May be repeated to a maximum of 12 hours. Prerequisite(s): DHD 401 and DHD 415; or consent of the instructor. Class Schedule Information: To be properly registered, students must enroll in one Discussion/Recitation and one Practice.

DHD 592. Interdisciplinary Seminar in Disability Studies. 1 hour.

Students, faculty, and guest speakers present topics addressing current issues in research in the area of disability studies. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. May be repeated to a maximum of 4 hours. Students may register in more than one section per term. Previously listed as DIS 595. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the faculty adviser.

DHD 593. Independent Research. 1-8 hours.

Advanced study and analysis of a topic selected by a student under the supervision of a faculty member. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. May be repeated. Students may register in more than one section per term. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor.

DHD 594. Advanced Special Topics in Disability and Human Development. 1-4 hours.

Systematic study of advanced selected topics in disability and human development. Course Information: May be repeated. Students may register in more than one section per term.

DHD 595. Seminar in Disability and Human Development. 1-4 hours.

Identifies and analyzes a broad range of issues related to disability and human development. Topics vary according to student interests and instructor availability. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. May be repeated. Students may register in more than one section per term. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor.

DHD 596. Independent Study. 1-4 hours.

Advanced study and analysis of a topic under guidance of a faculty member. Course Information: May be repeated. Students may register in more than one section per term. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor.

DHD 597. Project Research. 0-16 hours.

Independent research project under the supervision of a faculty member. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. May be repeated. Prerequisite(s): Graduate standing in the M.S. in Disability and Human Development program and consent of the instructor.

DHD 598. Master's Thesis Research. 0-16 hours.

Thesis research to fulfill master's degree requirements. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. May be repeated. Prerequisite(s): Graduate standing in the M.S. in Disability and Human Development program and consent of the instructor.

DHD 599. Ph.D. Thesis Research. 0-16 hours.

Independent research in one area of disability studies. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. May be repeated. Previously listed as DIS 599. Prerequisite(s): Graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Disability Studies program and consent of the instructor.