DISABILITY STUDIES, MINOR

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

Program Description
This is an intercollege minor, offered jointly by the College of Engineering and the College of the Liberal Arts, and overseen by the Science, Technology, and Society (STS) Program. It is designed for students with special interests in the social systems, environmental factors, and cultural history of disability. In addition to the requirements of the student’s major department, the minor consists of 18 credits selected from several colleges and departments. For those majoring in disability-driven disciplines (e.g. nursing, speech and communication disorders, psychology, special education, rehabilitation and human services, health administration), a Disability Studies minor provides relevant interdisciplinary links that broaden the understanding of disability beyond the clinical realm. For students in the humanities (e.g. history, philosophy, political science, and literature), Disability Studies offers important new dimensions and challenges to traditional accounts of human value and political agency. For students with personal experience of disability, the minor provides an academic grounding and community for disability advocacy on personal, community, and national levels.

What is Disability Studies?
Disability Studies is not the study of disabilities. It is a broad field that studies the perspectives, histories, and cultures of disabled people. It also examines the cultural norms that stigmatize disability: what counts as normal, anyway, and why? With a focus on the value of human variety on one hand and the stunning messages of disability activism on the other, Disability Studies challenges conventional assumptions about embodiment and mindedness.

You Might Like This Program If...
• You’re majoring in a field related to human health and services and will benefit from an understanding of disability as rich lived experience rather than pathology.
• You’re a humanities major asking big questions about embodiment, experience, human value, political agency, and intersectionality.
• You’re personally familiar with disability and would like to acquire a broader disability perspective by way of movies, memoirs, activist tracts, and the study of built environments.

Program Requirements

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Minor</td>
<td>18</td>
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Requirements for the Minor
A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the minor, as specified by Senate Policy 59-10 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/59-00-minors-and-certificates/#59-10).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RHS 100</td>
<td>Introduction to Disability Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
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Additional Courses

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>LA 495</td>
<td>Undergraduate Field Experience or Practicum (or an equivalent independent research course or internship approved by the faculty member in charge)</td>
<td>3</td>
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Supporting Courses and Related Areas
Select at least three courses for at least 9 credits from an approved department list in consultation with adviser.

Academic Advising
The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of-class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information need to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy)

University Park
Liberal Arts Academic Advising
814-865-2545
http://starfish.psu.edu
http://www.la.psu.edu/current-students/undergraduate-students/advising/advisers-by-major

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