

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

The Disability Studies minor is designed for students to learn about the lived experiences, cultural history, social systems, and institutional forces of ableism surrounding 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 health care disciplines (e.g. speech and communication, psychology, special education, rehabilitation and human services, nursing and pre-med), a Disability Studies minor provides relevant interdisciplinary links that broaden exposure to conversations around disability beyond the clinical and administrative realms. For students in the humanities (e.g. history, philosophy, political science, and literature), Disability Studies offers important new dimensions of and challenges to dominant accounts of human value and political agency. For students with personal experience of disability and their allies, the minor provides an academic grounding and community for disability advocacy and intersectional activism on personal, community, and national levels.

What is Disability Studies?

The minor includes courses on disability culture, activism, and history. It asks the following questions: what counts as "normal" and why? What are the racialized and class dimensions of "ability"? How do people with disabilities navigate a largely inaccessible world? What does disability look like on a global scale? What are the lived experiences of disability, and how are they central to American history and culture? How is disability coded by gender or sexuality? What is the value of learning about the lives and contributions of people with disability? How is disability related to environmental studies, bioethics, animal studies?

You Might Like This Program If...

- You are interested in the engineering or architecture of built environments, health care professions, art and performance, social history, social justice activism, the political philosophy of citizenship, contemporary literature, legal studies, community advocacy, universal design. The list is endless, since Disability Studies is a genuinely multidisciplinary field. All students are welcome.