

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE, CERTIFICATE

Requirements for an undergraduate certificate may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the certificate.

Program Description

The 18-credit certificate program was designed to help understand the unique challenges facing adolescents and young adults. Intended for counselors, educators, family therapists, social workers and other professionals dedicated to serving the developmental needs of youth in contemporary society, the program provides an overview of the major issues that impact youth development from a social justice perspective.

What is Youth Development and Social Justice?

The 18-credit certificate program helps students understand the unique challenges facing youth in our rapidly changing world. Intended for counselors, educators, family therapists, social workers and other professionals dedicated to serving the developmental needs of youth in contemporary society, the program provides an overview of the major issues that impact youth development from a social justice perspective. Students enter our program with the desire to nurture the youth of their community; they graduate with the skills and knowledge to do so effectively. In our collaborative, student-centered learning environment, students learn about the factors that contribute to positive youth development, and how they may be fostered within peer groups, families, communities, and social institutions, thereby reducing risk for poor developmental outcomes. Courses focus on normative and maladaptive patterns of adolescent development and the social ecology of positive youth development.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You want to become more informed citizens and community leaders.
- You're interested in professional work in various social justice related occupations (e.g. an educational setting for young adults who identify within the LGBTQ community, a human rights advocacy group, youth programming in urban areas, a non-governmental organization dedicated to community development).

Admission Requirements

To register for the certificate program, participants are required to have previously earned at least 60 credits.

Program Requirements

To earn an undergraduate certificate in Youth Development and Social Justice, a minimum of 18 credits is required.

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
CRIMJ 13	Juvenile Delinquency	3
HDFS 239	Adolescent Development	3
HDFS 397	Special Topics	1-9
Select 9 credits (at least 6 of which must be at the 400-level) of the following:		9
CRIMJ 441	The Juvenile Justice System	

HDFS 301	Values and Ethics in Health and Human Development Professions
HDFS 410	Communities and Families
HDFS 411	The Helping Relationship
HDFS 414	Resolving Human Development and Family Problems
HDFS 432	Developmental Problems in Childhood and Adolescence
HDFS 433	Developmental Transition to Adulthood
SOC 5	Social Problems

Prerequisites Required.

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 needed 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>)

Brandywine

Marinda Harrell-Levy

Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Studies
25 Yearsley Mill Road
Media, PA 19063
610-892-1277
mkh23@psu.edu

Mont Alto

Helen McGarry

Director of Continuing Education
1 Campus Drive
Mont Alto, PA 17237
717-749-4118
hem11@psu.edu

Career Paths

The Youth Development and Social Justice certificate will support a multitude of careers in youth development, including adolescent behavioral health, education, and corrections.

Contact

Brandywine

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
25 Yearsley Mill Road
Media, PA 19063
610-892-1277
mkh23@psu.edu

<http://brandywine.psu.edu/certificate-youth-development-and-social-justice>

Contact

Mont Alto

1 Campus Drive
Mont Alto, PA 17237
717-749-4118
hem11@psu.edu

<http://montalto.psu.edu/ce>