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 identity 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRIMJ 13</td>
<td>Juvenile Delinquency</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 239</td>
<td>Adolescent Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 397</td>
<td>Special Topics</td>
<td>1-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select 9 credits (at least 6 of which must be at the 400-level) of the following:</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIMJ 441</td>
<td>The Juvenile Justice System</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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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

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