

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 12-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 Youth Development and Social Justice (YDSJ) program focuses on the promotion of positive youth development within the context of social justice. The YDSJ framework views young people as assets and active change agents with the capacity to transform their lives and the world toward equity and justice.

The program provides an overview of the interconnectedness between youth development and youth resistance to social injustice. Students in the YDSJ minor will: 1) analyze issues of equity and oppression in relation to youth development, 2) work directly with youth in the community, and 3) apply theory to practice to build on the strengths of communities and youth. The program is experiential in nature and students learn by doing in trainings, workshops, and community settings.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You are interested in youth empowerment and social change.
- You want to study big questions, such as such as: 'what does equitable education look like?' and 'how does youth organizing translate to social policy?'
- You want to make a difference in the lives of youth and communities.
- You want to learn about the impacts of discrimination and oppression on youth development.
- You want to pursue a career in behavioral health, social work, education, advocacy, nonprofit administration, community development, public policy, community organizing, or criminal justice.

Program Requirements

To earn an undergraduate certificate in Youth Development and Social Justice, a minimum of 12 credits is required.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
HDFS 345	CONTEMPORARY URBAN ISSUES AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FRAMEWORKS	3
Select two of the following:		6
HDFS 175N	Introduction to Youth Development and Arts-based Social Justice	
HDFS 239	Adolescent Development	
HDFS 433	Developmental Transition to Adulthood	
PSYCH 412	Adolescence	

Select one of the following:		3
CAS 471	Intercultural Communication Theory and Research	
COMM 222N	Social Justice and the Image	
CRIM 441	The Juvenile Justice System	
EARTH 111		
ERM 210	Environmental Factors and Their Effect on Your Food Supply	
HDFS 239	Adolescent Development	
HDFS 301	Values and Ethics in Health and Human Development Professions	
HDFS 400	Youth Development and Social Justice Capstone Seminar	
HDFS 410	Communities and Families	
HDFS 411	The Helping Relationship	
HDFS 432	Developmental Problems in Childhood and Adolescence	
PLSC 1		American Politics: Principles, Processes and Powers
PLSC 291	Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies	
PLSC 491	Peace and Conflict Studies Seminar	
PSYCH 231	Introduction to the Psychology of Gender	
PSYCH 424	Applied Social Psychology	
PSYCH 432	Multicultural Psychology in America	
PSYCH 441	Health Psychology	
PSYCH 479	The Psychology of Gender	
SOC 5	Social Problems	

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 (<https://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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