YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE, 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 19-credit minor was designated to help you understand the unique challenges facing adolescents and youth in our rapidly changing world. The Youth Development and Social Justice program offers an interdisciplinary minor open to all PSU BW students. Students enter our program with the desire to support adolescents, youth, and their communities; they graduate with the skills, experience, and knowledge to do so effectively. Students will acquire tools to work with individuals of diverse backgrounds and perspectives, teamwork, and flexibility, as well as greater persistence and communications abilities – valuable assets that employers seek.

The Youth Development and Social Justice minor is offered for students who wish to add sociopolitical analysis skill and practical experience working with diverse youth to their undergraduate major.

The minor is flexible so that students can tailor their course choices to accommodate individual interests and match the resources at each campus. Students should seek the advice of the minor adviser for course selection. The provided supporting course list is a list of possibilities that each campus can adapt to best fit their unique context.

What is Youth Development and Social Justice?

The Youth Development and Social Justice 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 communities for the better.

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 youth-led workshops and community settings. Students will acquire tools to work with individuals of diverse backgrounds and perspectives, develop creative mindsets, as well as greater persistence and communication skills – valuable assets that employers seek.

You Might Like This Program If...

- 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

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 (https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/59-00-minors-and-certificates/). In addition, at least six credits of the minor must be unique from the prescribed courses required by a student’s major(s).

Some prerequisites may be required to meet the requirements for this minor.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 175N</td>
<td>Introduction to Youth Development and Arts-based Social Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 400</td>
<td>Youth Development and Social Justice Capstone Seminar</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 239</td>
<td>Adolescent Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 345</td>
<td>CONTEMPORARY URBAN ISSUES AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FRAMEWORKS</td>
<td>3</td>
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Supporting Courses

Select 6 credits from the following courses (One of the supporting courses must be 400-level):

- CAS 471 Intercultural Communication Theory and Research
- CRIMJ 13 Juvenile Delinquency
- CRIMJ 389 Gangs and Gang Behavior
- CRIMJ 441 The Juvenile Justice System
- EARTH 111
- ERM 210 Environmental Factors and Their Effect on Your Food Supply
- 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
- HDFS 468
- PLSC 91
- PLSC 491 Peace and Conflict Studies Seminar
- PSYCH 231 Introduction to the Psychology of Gender
- PSYCH 412 Adolescence
- PSYCH 424 Applied Social Psychology
- PSYCH 432 Multicultural Psychology in America
- PSYCH 441 Health Psychology
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/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/)

Please note, the University also offers an undergraduate certificate in Youth Development and Social Justice (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/colleges/university-college/youth-development-social-justice-certificate/).

**Brandywine**

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**Career Paths**

The Youth Development and Social Justice certificate will support a multitude of careers in youth development and justice work, including adolescent behavioral health, education, and corrections. Additional career examples include the following: Advocate, Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES), Community Health Worker, Community Specialist, Government Programs Employee, Specialist, Mental Health Counselor, Political Analyst, Social Services Director, Social Worker, Community Organizer, Youth Corrections, and Restorative Justice Programmer.

**Contact**

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