



WYOMING  
INSTITUTE FOR  
DISABILITIES



# DISABILITY STUDIES

## UNDERGRADUATE MINOR

### WHAT IS DISABILITY STUDIES?

Disability studies is a diverse interdisciplinary field that investigates broad questions about the nature, meanings, and consequences of disability from social, historical, cultural, and political perspectives.

The undergraduate Minor in Disability Studies examines disability issues from multiple lenses:

- Social sciences perspectives center upon issues of equal rights, social justice, access to education, supports and services, health care, and policy issues affecting the lives of people with disabilities.
- Humanities perspectives allow students to consider issues of identity, normalcy, and culture, as well as engage critically with foundational and ethical frameworks of autonomy, oppression, and discrimination.
- Health sciences perspectives acknowledge the important relationship between the origins of physical, cognitive or sensory impairment and the unique personal experience of impairment as crucial to understanding disability.

### WHY MINOR IN DISABILITY STUDIES?

Students from a wide range of academic fields might benefit from the Disability Studies Minor. The following list suggests the range of potential student interests:

- Health Science students interested in communication impairments, rehabilitation, counseling, or Deaf studies;
- History students interested in disability rights and legislation;
- Anthropology students interested in Deaf and/or disability culture;
- Communication students interested in media portrayals of disability;
- English students exploring representations of disability and illness;
- Psychology students interested in intellectual disability, autism, or mental illness;
- Education students interested in providing integrated, inclusive environments for all students, including those with disabilities;
- Business or engineering students interested in employment issues, assistive technologies, and accessible environments.

## DISABILITY STUDIES MINOR REQUIREMENTS

- 18 total credit hours
- 9 credit hours of required core courses

### REQUIRED CORE COURSES: 9 CREDIT HOURS

- WIND 2100: Introduction to Disability Studies (*Freshman/Sophomore*)
- WIND 4020: Disability Studies Theory & Practice (*Junior/Senior*)
- WIND 4500: Disability Studies Practicum (*Junior/Senior*)

### WIND ELECTIVE: 3 CREDITS SELECTED FROM OTHER WIND OFFERINGS

- WIND 2700: Gender and Disability (*Offered Spring, every odd year*)
- WIND 2500: Topics in Disability Studies (lower division)
- WIND 4050: Independent Study (variable credits)
- WIND 4990: Topics in Disability Studies (upper division)

*\*\*\*These courses can be occasionally substituted with an elective that is approved by WIND advisor.*

### EXTERNAL ELECTIVES: 6 CREDITS SELECTED FROM OTHER UW COURSE OFFERINGS RELATED TO DISABILITY STUDIES

WIND recommends 3 credits lower division and 3 credits upper division courses in this area. The following are examples of possible electives (students should work with WIND faculty advisor to select electives that best fit their academic goals).

- EDEX 2484: Introduction to Special Education
- SPPA 2110/2120: American Sign Language I & II
- PSYC 4320: Intellectual Disability
- FCSC 4124: Families of Young Children with Special Needs
- SPPA 4070: Deaf Studies

## CONTACT US

If you have questions or would like more information about the Disability Studies Minor, please contact:

Michelle Jarman, Director, Disability Studies Program  
[mjarman@uwyo.edu](mailto:mjarman@uwyo.edu) | (307) 766-5060  
Health Sciences Building, Office 147B  
[www.uwyo.edu/wind/disabilitystudies](http://www.uwyo.edu/wind/disabilitystudies)

