

# DISABILITY STUDIES, AS

**Program code:** DSAB-AS

**Location:** Manchester

## Program Description

The Disability Specialist associate degree program prepares students to work in a wide range of positions in private and public educational and human service agencies. Through individual consultation, each student will pursue a course of study with an emphasis upon the unique vocational goals the individual wishes to achieve. Every effort will be made to provide specific skill instruction; however, the focus of the curriculum is on building a strong knowledge base coupled with a positive value base that will prepare each student to assist children and adults with disabilities toward the goals of full community inclusion and participation, and the attainment of their potential.

This program builds upon the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, a landmark piece of legislation that provides basic civil rights to millions of people with disabilities in America. Students will become an important part of this dynamic movement.

Since most work settings are in the schools, workplaces, community associations, apartments and homes in the community, an understanding of “community-building” and “individual capacity-building” techniques and procedures is stressed. Creativity, sensitivity and a capacity to concentrate on the abilities of the whole person are essential characteristics of a disability specialist.

## Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of all Disability Specialist degree program requirements, graduates will:

1. Define and discuss basic definitions, causes, psychological characteristics and educational approaches relevant to children with disabilities.
2. Discuss how children and adults with disabilities have unique abilities rather than limitations.
3. Identify current trends and issues, and define the impact of current national and state laws and policies, affecting people with disabilities and their families.
4. Compare various learning theories and their application to children and adults with disabilities.
5. Define ethical standards in the disability field and demonstrate confidentiality in written and oral assignments.

In addition, the graduate will complete the comprehensive learning outcomes identified with the General Education Core.

**Program Philosophy:** People with disabilities are an integral part of the community and should receive necessary integrated community-based support.

**Mission Statement:** The Disability Specialist Program is to prepare students for careers in supporting children and adults with disabilities in the community by:

- recognizing and enhancing the dignity, respect and contribution of every child and adult with a disability.

- providing information on job opportunities in the disability field to encourage the recruitment of young and continuing education students.
- emphasizing, throughout the curriculum, community inclusion of all people with disabilities.
- creating opportunities for interaction among the students, faculty, staff and members of the community with and without disabilities.
- promoting the value of a Disability Specialist degree or certificate in the job market.
- introducing students to assistive technology and other innovations in the continuously evolving field of supporting people with disabilities in the community.

**Curriculum:** Because of the flexible nature of this program, students may select a full- or part-time plan of study for an associate degree or a certificate option. There is no required course program requirements sequence in this associate degree.

## Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
<b>General Education Courses</b>		
ENG 1010	Composition	3
MATH 1000 or higher <sup>1</sup>		3-4
Elective ARHX - Arts & Humanities Course		3-4
Elective SCRX - Scientific Reasoning Course or Elective SCKX - Scientific Knowledge Course		3-4
Elective SBSX - Social / Behavioral Science Course		3
Elective ORAX - Oral Communication Course or Elective WRIX - Written Communication II Course		3
CCS 1001	College and Career Success	3
<b>Program Courses</b>		
HSER 1001	Introduction to Human Services	3
HSER 2351	Working with Individuals and Families	3
PSY 1011	General Psychology I	3
HSER 1034	Introduction to the Mental Health System	3
HSER 2696	Human Services Practicum I	3
PSY 1185	Issues and Trends in Disabilities	3
PSY 1163	Children with Disabilities	3
PSY 1173	Adults with Disabilities	3
PSY 1183	Learning Process and Disability	3
PSY 1184	Assistive Technology Across the Lifespan	3
POLS 1002 or POLS 1003	American Government State and Local Government	3
HSER 2420	Group and Interpersonal Relations	3
Open Elective		3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>60-63</b>

<sup>1</sup> MATH 1100 Quantitative Reasoning or MATH 1200 Statistics I or MATH 1201 Statistics I with Computer Applications recommended

- Disability Specialist Certificate