



Certificate of Social Work Practice in Disability Studies

The Steve Hicks School of Social Work offers MSSW students the opportunity to graduate with a certificate in Disability Studies. This certificate program prepares both Clinical and APP students to work with disabled communities in diverse settings, including healthcare programs, case management, nonprofits, schools, and policy work. Course work emphasizes historical perspectives of the disability rights movement, current perspectives of disability justice, critical analysis of current models of disability, intersectional approaches to advocacy and policy and is grounded in interprofessional education and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Certificate Requirements

The Disability Studies certificate program is composed of one anchor course, Making Systems Work for People with Disabilities, elective and selective coursework, 20 hours of professional development and an approved field placement. All coursework counted toward earning a certificate must be taken at the graduate level at the Steve Hicks School of Social Work or through approved out-of-department classes. The student is responsible for documenting that all requirements for the certificate have been successfully completed.

Approved Field Placement

Certificate students will participate in one official field placement that is focused on disability or disability advocacy social work practice. The placement is a key educational component, providing students with hands-on learning and an opportunity to apply and integrate classroom-based knowledge. This placement may occur in the student's first or final field experience.

Additional Proposed Coursework for Certificate

Students in the Clinical concentration would select three of their five choices from the suggested course options on page two. Students in the APP concentration would select three of their four choices from the suggested course options on page two. Other courses may be approved as offered, through consultation with the certificate coordinator and the Assistant Dean for Master's Programs.

Professional Development

Students will engage in a minimum of 20 hours of professional development during the course of their graduate program, either through conference attendance, training participation and/or research project participation that relates to Disability Studies. Professional development hours must be approved by the Certificate Coordinator prior to the certificate being awarded and may not count toward fulfillment of requirements of another course or program at the School.

Process

Students will complete an application for the certificate program. The application can be found here: <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Certificate-application.pdf>

Certificate Coordinator

For more information, contact Prof. Nick Wings-Yanez at nwingsyanez@utexas.edu.

Social Work Coursework *

- Anchor Courses: Making Systems Work for People with Disabilities
- APP Selectives: Program Evaluation, Grant Development; Advanced Policy Practice; Strategic Partnerships, Nonprofit Management
- Clinical Selectives: Assessment and Treatment of Traumatized Populations, Grief Counseling, Crisis Intervention
- Electives: Social Construction of Disability; Women and Disabilities; Spirituality and Disability; Incarceration and Disability; Aging and Disability, Leadership Training in Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities

Possible out-of-department or cross-listed coursework options *

- WGS 393
 - Sick/Slow/Mad Crip Theory

** These are not exhaustive lists. Additional courses may be presented to the Certificate Coordinator for approval. Additionally, not all courses may be offered in all semesters and seats are not guaranteed.*