

# Disability Studies

*Made in Windsor.*



**DISABILITY STUDIES**

**SOCIAL WORK AND DISABILITY STUDIES (BSW)**

**DISABILITY STUDIES AND PSYCHOLOGY**

**DISABILITY STUDIES COMBINED PROGRAMS**



[uwindsor.ca](http://uwindsor.ca)



**Disability Studies  
Experience Map**



**University  
of Windsor**

## Highlights and Skills

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**Disability Studies** **H** **C** Become an advocate for accessibility and social justice. The material taught in this program is derived from people with disabilities and their lived experiences. The knowledge you gain is grounded in the real world and we enhance the theory you learn with practice. The placements and volunteer opportunities offered through this program add value to your degree.

**Social Work and Disability Studies (BSW)** **H** Become an effective advocate with this program that combines social work and disability studies. You'll get lots of hands-on experience in the field and have the opportunity to join clubs. This is a program where you can learn to make a difference in the world.

**Disability Studies and Psychology** **H** Benefit from training in both psychology and disability studies in this program that gives you lots of hands-on learning opportunities. We offer community volunteer experience and placements, giving you an edge when it comes time to launch your career. We're here to give you the individual support you need to succeed.

**MIN. AVG.\* 70% ONTARIO COURSE REQUIREMENTS** ENG4U required.




### FUNCTIONAL KNOWLEDGE

- Understanding, internalizing, communicating, and enacting best practices for making accommodations and modifications for persons with disabilities in real-world, context-sensitive situations
- Evaluating representations of persons with disabilities in literature and media
- Understanding psychological and social models of disability
- Developing inclusive lectures, presentations, and programs that target diverse demographics equitably while remaining sensitive to various cultural dynamics
- Assessing and appreciating the consequence of culturally constructed roles—and the perception of these roles—on individuals and broader social groups
- Critically investigating trends and phenomena in socio-cultural life and business in the context of ableism

**H** Honours – 4-year program **C** Combined Honours programs available \* Minimum grade point average for admission to program. A higher average may be required.

## Build your Skills and Experience

Your UWindsor experience is more than attending classes. It is a combination of academics, co-curricular activities, and extracurricular involvement. By making the most of all three elements of your university experience, you will maximize your opportunities to build your skills, broaden your personal network, and clarify your long term academic and career goals.

	<p><b>CURRICULUM</b> Courses of study specific to each program</p>
	<p><b>CO-CURRICULAR</b> Activities and experiences that complement coursework (Outstanding Scholars, peer mentoring, VIP)</p>
	<p><b>EXTRACURRICULAR</b> Activities falling outside the scope of set curriculum (Part-time job, clubs, volunteering, athletics)</p>

## Career Planning Cycle

Intentional career planning will help you prepare for your next step after graduation and beyond. It is a fluid, dynamic, and lifelong process. You can move on or return to an earlier stage in the cycle at any time.



## Explore Opportunities Using This Chart

Explore a selection of opportunities recommended for students in your program. This chart shows some of your many options – you don't have to do everything on it or limit yourself to it. Engage in opportunities from each of the three categories to set yourself up for success.

### High-Impact Practice (HIP)

A HIP is an enriching educational experience that can be life-changing and often includes learning outside of the classroom while encouraging meaningful interaction and collaboration, such as:

- Co-op, internship or field experiences
- Research with faculty
- Culminating senior experience
- Capstone courses
- Service-learning
- Learning communities
- Study abroad

## Academics



Your Coursework




### First Year

- Review degree course requirements
- Attend **Head Start** and **Orientation** meetings for your programs of study
- Take required courses in Disability Studies, Psychology, and Social Work
- Enrol in a variety of science and arts courses to expand knowledge and interests
- Reach out and interact with your peers across Disability Studies programs
- Consider adding another major to obtain a Combined Honours Degree

### Middle Years

- Take required courses and check in with an academic advisor to make sure you are on the right path
- Look into aiding professors with research on campus 
- Begin looking into Graduate and Professional program options
- Consider declaring a minor and/or specialization
- Apply to the professional years of Social Work in year 2 if you are in the Social Work stream
- Look into working with a faculty member on research or a Psychology thesis 



### Final Year



- Complete all required courses for your degree
- Apply to graduate through **UWinside Student Portal**
- Complete required field placement, internship, or practicum course to optimize your senior experience 


## Experience

Ways To Get Involved



- Volunteer or work for a disability-related non-profit or such social justice organizations as **respite services**
- Join one of our active student associations: **Disability Studies Student Association, Social Work Student Association, Psychology Students' Association, Accessibility Awareness Committee**
- Attend university events and speaking engagements related to disability issues
- Investigate research opportunities as part of the **Outstanding Scholars** program 
- Research student exchange opportunities for second or third year 
- Participate in the **Bystander Initiative** workshop to gain skills that will help you be an effective and supportive ally to prevent sexual assault on campus

- Join a professional association in your field such as the **Canadian Disability Studies Association**
- Attend a **Disability Studies Student Association** event such as the annual gala
- Become a student representative on a program or school committee
- Participate in the **UWill Discover** undergraduate research conference 
- Consider applying for student exchange 
- Continue engaging in disability-related summer, part-time, or volunteer work
- Look for a leadership role in a club or society
- Apply for a co-curricular experience such as **VIP-Community Service Learning**

- Become a peer mentor for first-year Psychology, Disability Studies or Social Work students
- Volunteer with organization such as the **Best Buddies UWindsor Chapter**
- Become a tutor for **Students Offering Support (SOS)** 
- Meet agency professionals through workshops or a Disability Studies, Psychology or Social Work guest speaker series

## Career

Plan Ahead For What's Next



- Start by making a list of things that you enjoy and areas in which you excel
- Meet with a career advisor in **Career Development and Experiential Learning (CDEL)** for help developing a plan for your future years
- Consider a **Career Exploration Program** appointment to help you identify possible career paths
- Get involved with a part-time job, volunteer opportunity, campus group, or research assistantship
- Attend **CDEL workshops** to learn how to find a summer or part-time job and write a university-level resumé
- Chat with an advisor during **CDEL's Drop In** hours to get answers to your career and job search questions

- Research career fields and occupations with the help of a **CDEL** career advisor
- Explore opportunities and meet potential employers by participating in **Job Shadow Experience**, job fairs, and industry networking events
- Explore further educational opportunities by attending the **Graduate and Professional Schools Fair** and researching admission requirements for programs that interest you
- Create a **LinkedIn** profile and have it critiqued by **CDEL**
- Take part in informational interviews and join online communities like **LinkedIn** and **Ten Thousand Coffees** to connect with people in your targeted profession or industry
- Search job postings to learn what skills, knowledge, and credentials you will need for potential careers

- If you are considering applying to graduate or professional school, be aware of early application deadlines
- Meet with **CDEL** to prepare application documents like a resumé, cover letter, CV, or personal statement for jobs and education programs you are applying to
- Attend **CDEL's workshops** on interview skills and job search strategies
- Set up a mock interview with a career advisor for professional school or job applications
- Take part in recruitment events and job fairs hosted by **CDEL** and other organizations
- Explore professional development opportunities through **Continuing Education**

# Life After Graduation



Disability Studies provided me with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in my chosen career and continue on to pursue graduate studies. The faculty are supportive and the courses are engaging. This program strikes a great balance between theory and practice and provides interdisciplinary perspectives of disability.”

*John Freer – BA in Disability Studies*

## 22 Number of Graduates

*(2020)*

## 94% Employment Rate of Graduates

*2 years following degree completion (OUGS Social Sciences, 2019)*

### Career Tracks\*

Communications specialist  
Consultant  
Disability support worker  
Diversity co-ordinator  
Family counsellor  
Group home worker  
Health-care administrator

Human resources manager  
Immigration officer  
Industry instructor  
Journalist  
Lawyer  
Marketing manager  
Personal aide

Physical therapist  
Physician  
Policy analyst  
Journalist  
Professor  
Psychologist  
Public official  
Public policy analyst

Public relations officer  
Research co-ordinator  
Social worker  
Teacher

*\*Additional education and/or training required for some of the above careers.*



### Common Sectors For Graduates

- **Academia:** Advanced disability studies research
- **Business:** Research and analysis, human resources, inclusivity and sensitivity policy development
- **Community outreach and advocacy**
- **Education:** Advising, counselling, corporate training
- **Government:** Disability and accessibility research and policy development
- **Healthcare:** Administration, counselling
- **Social service and personal support work:** Case management and service delivery

### Career-Readiness Competencies



Critical Thinking & Problem Solving



Professionalism & Work Ethic



Teamwork & Collaboration



Communication





# Campus Resources

- Research undergraduate scholarships and bursaries through the **Student Awards and Financial Aid Office**
- Visit **Leddy Library** and the **Writing Support Desk** for help with academic assignments
- Check out the **Bounce Back** program designed to improve academic performance as well as decrease feelings of stress and anxiety through both effective learning strategies and life skills acquisition
- Build leadership skills and find leadership opportunities at the **Leadership Hub**
- Get advice and support about your academic status by making an appointment with **Central Academic Advising**
- Seek out assistance with academic accommodation from **Student Accessibility Services**
- Discover ways to get involved on campus through the **Student Success and Leadership Centre**
- Broaden your cultural awareness through the **International Student Centre** and **Student Exchange Office**
- Look into the **Ignite: Work Study** program for on-campus employment
- Get assistance developing your career plan and job search skills from **Career Development and Experiential Learning**
- Develop your entrepreneurial skills and learn how to start your own business at **EPICentre**
- Find support for Indigenous learners and broaden your understanding of Indigenous culture by visiting the **Aboriginal Education Centre - Turtle Island**
- Tend to your health and wellness with support from **Student Health Services**, the **Wellness Outreach Office** and **Lancer Recreation**
- Receive confidential mental health counselling delivered by trained professionals at the **Student Counselling Centre**
- **Prevent.Resist.Support.** Seek personal support or learn more about sexual violence prevention and resistance education through the **Office of Sexual Violence Prevention, Resistance & Support**
- Explore professional development opportunities through **Continuing Education**



[experience.uwindsor.ca](https://experience.uwindsor.ca)

## Student Recruitment

Phone: 519-973-7014

Toll-Free: 1-800-864-2860

Email: [info@uwindsor.ca](mailto:info@uwindsor.ca)

## School of Social Work Disability Studies

Phone: 519-253-3000, Ext. 3064

Email: [disabilitystudies@uwindsor.ca](mailto:disabilitystudies@uwindsor.ca)

## Career Development and Experiential Learning

Web: [uwindsor.ca/cdel](https://uwindsor.ca/cdel)

Email: [careerservices@uwindsor.ca](mailto:careerservices@uwindsor.ca)