



University
of Windsor



**DISABILITY
STUDIES
EXPERIENCE MAP**

DISABILITY STUDIES



DISABILITY STUDIES

SOCIAL WORK AND DISABILITY STUDIES (BSW)

DISABILITY STUDIES AND PSYCHOLOGY

DISABILITY STUDIES COMBINED PROGRAMS

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 disabilities studies. You'll get lots of hands-on experience in the field and have the opportunity to go on exchange and 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. Social Work students re-apply for admission to Year 3.

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 **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.

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.



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

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 **HIP**
- 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 **HIP**

FINAL YEAR

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

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 **HIP**
- Research student exchange opportunities for second or third year **HIP**
- 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 **HIP**
- Consider applying for student exchange **HIP**
- 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)** **HIP**
- Meet agency professionals through workshops or a Disability Studies, Psychology or Social Work guest speaker series

CAREER

Plan ahead for what's next



- Create a list of things that you enjoy, areas in which you excel, and your skills
- Meet with a career advisor in **Career Development and Experiential Learning (CDEL)** for help developing a plan for your future years
- Consider a career assessment workshop or 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
- Drop in to meet with one of **CDEL's** peer advisors 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 fairs and industry networking events
- Explore further educational opportunities by attending the **Graduate and Professional Schools Fair** and researching admission requirements for programs you are interested in
- Create a **LinkedIn** profile and have it critiqued
- 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
- Use **InterviewStream** to practice your interview skills online
- Set up an in-person mock interview with a career advisor for professional school or job applications
- Meet employers at the annual job fair in January
- Compose a portfolio of relevant academic and work experience
- 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 [2012]

30 NUMBER OF GRADUATES (2018)

93% EMPLOYMENT RATE OF GRADUATES

*2 years following degree completion
(OUGS Social Sciences, 2017)*

CAREER TRACKS*

Behavioural aide
Child and youth care worker
Communications specialist
Consultant
Disability support worker
Diversity co-ordinator
Educational assistant

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
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
AND PROBLEM
SOLVING



PROFESSIONALISM
AND WORK ETHIC



TEAMWORK AND
COLLABORATION



COMMUNICATION



CAMPUS RESOURCES

- Research scholarships and bursaries through the **Student Awards and Financial Aid Office**
- Visit **Leddy Library** and the **Writing Support Desk** for help with academic assignments
- Learn about our **Bounce Back** program designed to support students struggling to find both personal and academic success in their post-secondary experience
- Build leadership skills and find leadership opportunities at the **Leadership Hub**
- Experience international service learning on an **Alternative Spring Break** team
- Get advice and support about your academic status by making an appointment with **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**
- Look into the **Ignite: Work Study** program for on-campus employment opportunities
- Get assistance developing your career plan and job search skills from **Career Development and Experiential Learning**
- Consult with the **EPICentre** if you are interested in starting your own business
- Broaden your cultural awareness through the **International Student Centre** and **Student Exchange Office**
- Find support for Indigenous learners and broaden your understanding of Indigenous culture by visiting **Turtle Island**
- Tend to your health and wellness with support from **Student Health Services** and **Lancer Recreation**
- Receive confidential mental health counselling delivered by trained professionals at the **Student Counselling Centre**
- Seek personal support or learn more about sexual violence education through the **Sexual Misconduct Response and Prevention Office**
- Explore professional development opportunities through **Continuing Education**

We've got you covered!

GET IN TOUCH

STUDENT RECRUITMENT

Phone: 519-973-7014
Toll-Free: 1-800-864-2860
ask.uwindsor.ca

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK DISABILITY STUDIES

Phone: 519-253-3000, Ext. 3064
Email: disabilitystudies@uwindsor.ca

CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Phone: 519-253-3000, Ext. 3895
Email: careerservices@uwindsor.ca