



# UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 2, 2005

*Mark A. Emmert, President*

Dean David C. Hodge  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Box 353765

Dear David:

Based on the recommendation of the Faculty Council on Academic Standards, and the Bothell and Tacoma faculties, I am approving a new minor in Disability Studies. A copy of the new minor is attached.

I am writing to inform you that the Law, Societies, and Justice program is authorized to offer this minor beginning spring quarter 2005.

The new minor should be incorporated in printed statements and in individual department websites as soon as possible. The *General Catalog* website will be updated accordingly by the Registrar's Office.

Sincerely yours,

Mark A. Emmert  
President

Enclosure

cc: Professor Michael W. McCann (with enclosure)  
Mr. W. W. Washburn (with enclosure)  
Mr. Robert Corbett (with enclosure)  
Dr. Deborah Wiegand (with enclosure) L5J-072004



6/6/

LST-07-2004

# Creating & Changing Undergraduate Academic Programs\*

SEP 23 2004

After college/school review, send signed original and 8 copies to: FCAS, Box 351271

College: Arts & Sciences Department or Unit: Law, Societies, and Justice Date: 7-20-2004

### New Programs

- Leading to a Bachelor of \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ degree
- Leading to a Bachelor of \_\_\_\_\_ degree with a major in \_\_\_\_\_
- Leading to a \_\_\_\_\_ Option within the existing major in \_\_\_\_\_
- Leading to a Minor in Disability Studies

### Changes to existing programs

- New Admission Requirements for the Major in \_\_\_\_\_ within the Bachelor of \_\_\_\_\_
- Revised Admission Requirements for the Major in \_\_\_\_\_ within the Bachelor of \_\_\_\_\_
- Revised Program Requirements for the Major in \_\_\_\_\_ within the Bachelor of \_\_\_\_\_
- Revised Requirements for the Option in \_\_\_\_\_ within the major in \_\_\_\_\_
- Revised Requirements for the Minor in \_\_\_\_\_

### Other Changes

- Change name of program from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_
- New or Revised Continuation Policy for \_\_\_\_\_
- Eliminate program in \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Effective Date: (quarter/year) Winter/2005

Contact Person	Phone Number	Email
Dennis Lang	206-522-3104	dlang@u.washington.edu

Explanation of and Rationale for Proposed Change: (Please use additional pages if necessary. For new programs, please include any relevant supporting documentation such as student learning outcomes, projected enrollments, letters of support, and departmental handouts.)

(see attached)

\* For information about when and how to use this form please go to <http://www.washington.edu/faculty/facsenate/councils/fcas/1503/>.

## Creating & Changing Undergraduate Academic Programs

### . Catalog Copy

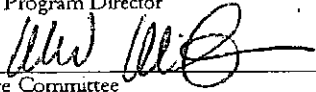
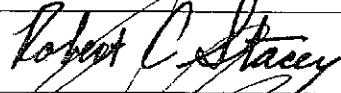
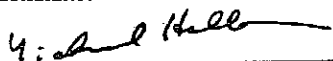

A. Catalog Copy as Currently Written (*Include only sections/paragraphs that would be changed if your request is approved. Please cross out or otherwise highlight any deletions.*)

B. Proposed Catalog Copy, Reflecting Requested Changes (*Include exact wording as you wish it to be shown in the printed catalog. Please underline or otherwise highlight any additions. If needed, attach a separate, expanded version of the changes that might appear in department publications.*)

The Disability Studies Minor requires a minimum of 30 credits:

- 1) 15 credits from the following core courses:
  - A) 5 credits of LSJ 332 Disability and Society: Introduction to Disability Studies (prerequisite for B, C and minor-related internship/independent study)
  - B) 5 credits of LSJ 433 Disability Law, Policy, and the Community
  - C) 5 credits of LSJ 434 Civil and Human Rights Law for Disabled People
- 2) 5 credits of the total 30 credit minimum requirement must be in a Disability Studies-related internship or independent study. (Prerequisite LSJ 332)
- 3) 10 credits from list of Disability Studies electives (see LSJ department adviser or LSJ department homepage for list of allowable classes)

### 3. Signatures (required)

Chair/Program Director	Date	Dean	Date
	7/28/04		SEP 20 2004
College Committee	Date	Faculty Council on Academic Standards	Date
	SEP 20 2004		10-8-04

## **Disability Studies Minor**

Disability Studies at the University of Washington involves a multi-campus interdisciplinary group of faculty, staff, students and community members, who share an interest in questions relating to society's understanding of disability. The undergraduate Disability Studies Minor provides an opportunity for students to develop a strong interdisciplinary foundation in the social, legal and political framing of disability. The emphasis is on studying the cultural construct of disability, social justice, and disability policy, and the intersections of disability, race, gender, sex, age, class and other markers of diversity and difference. Students have the opportunity to enhance this foundation by studying disability through the arts, humanities and the social sciences, and the opportunities provided by the internship and/or independent research requirements.

### **Learning Goals:**

1. Acquire an understanding of the major perspectives (Moral, Social and Medical models) of disability.
2. Develop an appreciation of how disability is defined and represented via the arts, social sciences, and humanities.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the intersectionality of disability, race, class, gender, and sexuality.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the history of civil rights for disabled people and the influence of medical, social, and economic perspectives.
5. Acquire a familiarity with federal and state laws against discrimination, the federal entitlement programs for disabled people and the relationship between laws and social policy.
6. Acquire an understanding of the definition of human rights, civil rights and the complexities inherent in our western legal analysis of these concepts when applied to the rights of disabled people.
7. Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of the major international human rights instruments including selected international models of disability rights laws and the American civil rights model concerning disabled people.
8. Demonstrate knowledge of the elements of disability policy development and change at both micro (local) and macro (global) levels.

### **Credit Requirements:**

We believe that all students pursuing a Disability Studies Minor must study the content in the following required courses in order to acquire a baseline understanding of Disability Studies. From our experience, students require more than one course to adequately engage in the theory, history, and experience of disabled people. The first course introduces students to the language of disability, the portrayal of disability in public culture, and the historical and legal treatment of disabled people, including an

appreciation of the concepts of discrimination, bias and exclusion in the majority culture. Students will then be prepared for LSJ 433 to explore legal and policy issues that impact disabled people in more depth and begin to appreciate the role of community activism in social change. Finally, LSJ 434 will introduce alternative legal approaches to ending discrimination towards disabled people through the study of international human rights laws and alternative rights models from around the world. We feel the required courses provide students with an extremely strong foundation in preparation for career development including further academic studies.

In addition to these three courses, we require students to complete a Disability Studies related internship or independent study. This requirement gives students the opportunity to either explore in greater depth a topic of interest under faculty direction or to work with a community agency or organization that is involved in direct service or advocacy.

**The Disability Studies Minor requires a minimum of 30 credits:**

- 1) 15 credits from the following core courses:
  - A) 5 credits from LSJ 332 Disability and Society: Introduction to Disability Studies (prerequisite for the following 2 courses, and internship/independent study)
  - B) 5 credits from LSJ 433 Disability Law, Policy, and the Community
  - C) 5 credits from LSJ 434 Civil and Human Rights Law for Disabled People
- 2) 5 credits of the total 30 credit minimum requirement must be in a Disability Studies related internship or independent study. (Prerequisite LSJ 332)
- 3) 10 credits from any of the courses appearing on the Disability Studies Courses Approved List. The list will be updated quarterly and appear on the Disability Studies website.

Seattle Campus:

ANTH 228 Identities: Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality in Anthropology  
ANTH 474 Social Difference and Medical Knowledge  
ANTH 322 Comparative Study of Death  
ANTH 305 Anthropology of the Body  
EDUC 305 The Purpose of Public Schools in a Democracy  
\*ENGL 111 Composition: Literature  
\*ENGL 281 Intermediate Expository Writing  
\*DANCE 320 (when offered as Inclusive Practice Integrating Disabled & Non-disabled Dancers)  
GEO 3xx Geography of Difference—NEW COURSE  
\*HIST 498 Colloquium in History (when offered as History of American Eugenics)  
LSJ 420 Politics of Rights

LSJ 4xx Disability Studies Senior Seminar (course number varies depending on characteristics of the seminar)  
PHIL 242 Medical Ethics  
PHIL 345 Moral Issues of Life and Death  
PHIL xxx Philosophy and Disability (course in development)  
REHAB 496 Medical Aspects of Disability for Rehabilitation Counselors  
SpHSc 453 AAC: Implementation Strategies  
\*SOCW 200 Introduction to Social Work Practice (when offered with Disability Studies emphasis)  
SOCW 404 Cultural Diversity and Justice (SW majors only)  
~~SOCW 594 Social Work Practice Across Disability (SW majors only)~~  
\*WOMEN 200 Introduction to Women Studies  
\*WOMEN 290 Special Topics (when offered as Feminism and Disability).

Bothell:

BIS 322 Topics in Performance Studies  
BIS 325 Disability and Human Rights

\* These courses vary in their Disability Studies related content. Check with LSJ Advisor or the Disability Studies Minor Committee to ensure that content will satisfy the Minor.

**Rationale:**

Disability Studies is an interdisciplinary field informed by the arts, humanities, and social sciences that investigates, enhances, and compliments society's understanding of disability by incorporating social, cultural, historical, political, legal and educational perspectives. There is a growing international scholarly interest in the field and University of Washington faculty, students and administrators have been involved in the development of Disability Studies for at least 10 years. As a result of recent concerted campus and community efforts, there has been increasing student and faculty interest in course work related to Disability Studies. We believe that the number of Disability Studies related courses, student interest, and faculty expertise now allow sufficient course offerings to support a Disability Studies Minor. Students who wish to satisfy the requirements described above and obtain a Disability Studies Minor would then be able to document their level of study in this new discipline.

While manifestation of disability changes through time, disability itself is a constant component of human existence. Since disability is a fact of the human experience, not the exception, a comprehensive undergraduate curriculum must include the study of the experiences of disabled people. Like other oppressed groups throughout history, however, disabled people have been marginalized; this has led to minimal attention to the historical, cultural, and political/legal elements of disability. The University of Washington has shown leadership in addressing many diversity concerns on campus; however, the concerns of disabled people have received minimal attention. The effect of this neglect by higher education has been—in part—responsible for the continued

discrimination towards disabled people. This is beginning to change as Disability Studies is recognized as a legitimate focus of study and increasing numbers of courses examine the human experience of disability not from the individual impairment model but from a whole systems social model perspective.

The importance of addressing disability from such an informed perspective is reiterated by the Report of the United Nations Secretary-General prepared pursuant to Sub-Commission resolution 1995/17 on Human Rights and Disability:

Through neglect, ignorance, prejudice and false assumptions, as well as through exclusion, distinction or separation, persons with disabilities have very often been prevented from exercising their economic, social or cultural rights on an equal basis with persons without disabilities. The effects of disability-based discrimination have been particularly severe in the fields of education, employment, housing, transport, cultural life, and access to public places and services.

The development of Disability Studies represents a much-needed pro-active educational approach to address this pervasive discrimination in our society. Establishing a Disability Studies Minor acknowledges the University's commitment to this field of study and the concomitant research, teaching and service.

The University of Washington is at the forefront of the development of Disability Studies as an academic discipline through the individual research and teaching of growing numbers of faculty across campuses and disciplines, increasing student interest in the subject area, and an expansion of traditional "diversity" efforts to include disability. Establishment of a Disability Studies Minor will provide additional opportunities for both students and faculty to explore the field.

**Students who would be interested in and benefit from a Disability Studies Minor:**

- Students interested in social justice—including law and political science
- Students interested in social services—e.g., social work and allied health fields
- Students interested in medical research and ethics
- Students interested in graduate work in history, communications or sociology
- Students interested in diversity issues of all kinds
- Students interested in teaching and education administration and policy

**Administration and Advising:**

The Disability Studies Minor will be administrated by the Law, Societies, and Justice Program (LSJ). The Disability Studies Minor Committee will make policy, choose coordinators, consider and approve requests for addition of courses to the Minor, and discuss and evaluate the status of the Minor. The four faculty members who currently teach the three core academic courses—LSJ 332, 433, and 434—and the Director of the LSJ Program, Michael McCann, will provide this coordination and oversight. The

LSJ Undergraduate Advising Office will provide the necessary student advising for those pursuing the Minor.





July 26, 2004

Michael McCann, Ph.D.  
Professor and Director  
Law, Societies, and Justice  
University of Washington  
mwmccann@u.washington.edu

RE: Disability Studies Minor

Dear Dr. McCann,

I am writing to you to offer the full support of the Department of Rehabilitation to the proposal to develop a minor in Disability Studies to be located in Law, Societies, and Justice. This will address a critical need to on campus to enhance diversity with a focus on disability. I expect this will also serve as an excellent recruitment tool for our graduate programs in occupational and physical therapy and medicine. Dr. Kurt Johnson offers courses at the undergraduate level that may be of interest to students in the minor and may be included as course options. These share the common prefix, Rehab496 and include Medical Aspects of Disabilities (3 credits), Psychosocial Aspects of Disability (3 credits), and Technology and Disability (3 credits).

We appreciate your advocacy for this important program and willingness to house it within Law, Societies, and Justice.

Sincerely,

Lawrence R. Robinson, M.D.  
Professor and Chair

LRR:KJ:kmp

cc: Susan Jeffords, Ph.D.  
Vice provost for Academic Planning  
Jeffords@u.washington.edu

Mark Weitzenkamp  
Academic Advisor, LS&J  
lsjadv@u.washington.edu

Kurt Johnson, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor, Rehabilitation Medicine  
kjohnson@u.washington.edu

July 29, 2004

TO: Mark Weitzenkamp  
Law, Societies, and Justice Program

FROM: Judith A. Howard  
Chair, Department of Women Studies

RE: Proposed Minor in Disability Studies

I am writing in strong support of the proposal to establish a minor in Disability Studies at the University of Washington. We have long needed such a program; indeed it is my hope that this will be the first step toward a more comprehensive program of study in this area. The Department of Women Studies is pleased to have some of our courses included in the list of courses that will count toward this minor. The learning goals and rationale included in the proposal are highly compatible with those of our department and we are pleased to be a part of this initiative.