Description

The College of Professional Studies is offering a Bachelor of Human Services in Disability Studies degree (BHS-DS). The BHS-DS degree was approved in the spring of 2007. The BHS-DS concentration embraces the Disability Rights Movement that focuses on self-determination, civil rights and culture. A comprehensive curriculum encompasses diverse disability perspectives including how the disability empowerment movement has addressed challenges that have limited the participation of people with disabilities in society.

Curriculum

The Bachelor of Human Services in Disability Studies degree (BHS-DS) curriculum includes a foundation of core course work in the human services. The concentration in Disability Studies offers a broad spectrum of content relevant to persons with disabilities throughout their life spans. Six courses form the Disability Studies concentration and are described on the reverse side of this sheet.

Career Opportunities

According to the US 2000 Government Census “…a total of 72.3 million families were surveyed and found that nearly 28.9 percent of them reported having at least one member with a disability.” Career opportunities are evolving as new advancements contribute to improved health and lifestyles for persons with disabilities. Career options include work in gerontology, residential services, independent living centers, community programs, mental health, developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, traumatic brain injuries and work injuries. Agencies offer growth potential for advocates, program coordinators, activity directors, managers, job developers and policy analysts.

Community Collaboration

The Bachelor of Human Services in Disability Studies concentration collaborates with the Minnesota Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (www.mncdd.org) with use of their outstanding resources in BHS-DS courses, including the Partners in Policymaking® e-learning course “Partners in Making Your Case.” This e-learning course can also be accessed directly at the Partners in Policymaking Web site: www.partnersinpolicymaking.com.

Comments from students

“I have been fortunate to gain better insight and knowledge on disability issues, and have been able to use this invaluable educational experience in my personal life as an advocate for rights for myself and my family.”

~Stacey Notch, 2007

“As an adoptive parent of a child with disabilities, I’ve gained a lot of useful knowledge through the disability studies courses at Metropolitan State University. The disability studies courses fit perfectly with my future goals and career plans.”

~Trenton Griswold, 2007
### HSDS 304 Introduction to Disabilities

Introduction to Disabilities provides an overview of developmental disabilities from the medical, psychosocial and prevention perspectives. Cultural attitudes that contribute to barriers and challenges in society are also examined. An opportunity to research a later-life disability is offered in the course. It is recognized that Disability Studies examines the social policies and practices that determine the experience of disability. Understanding developmental disabilities in a full life span context from diverse perspectives provides a basis for viewing the challenges posed by society that are significant to the disability rights movement.

### HSDS 305 Disability Rights: History and Current Trends

Disability Rights: History and Current Trends traces the history, policies, and individual and group empowerment efforts that led to the formation of the disability rights movement. Key legislation including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Rehabilitation Act and education acts are examined. Future trends in disability policies and civil rights are also explored. The challenges and struggles that persons with disabilities have fought to change in order to gain independence, respect and opportunities are studied through American perspectives of disability history.

### HSDS 306 Community Resources and Services for Persons with Disabilities

This course examines resources and services for persons with disabilities including Independent Living Centers, group residences, assisted living centers, training centers, community options, supported employment, and public and nonprofit agencies. The disenfranchisement of persons with disabilities in society as a consequence of specialized services is also analyzed. The concept of interdependence is of primary importance in this course pertaining to analyzing and improving disability services.

### HSDS 307 Blind, DeafBlind, and Deaf Culture, History and Resources

This course examines the historical perspectives, social policies, resources, and culture of persons belonging to the blind, deafblind or deaf culture. It is recognized that persons who are blind, deafblind or deaf each have a unique history and culture. The course materials include major writings in comprehensive modules. These materials provide perspectives on the significant culture, civil rights movements, and empowerment of persons who are blind, deafblind and of the deaf world.

### HSDS 308 Aging and Disabilities

The aging of persons with disabilities is a new phenomenon due to improved health and advances that have increased their life span. In addition, the aging of the baby boomers is increasing the population of persons acquiring disabilities as they age. Is our society prepared to meet the needs of both groups? How can we prepare to assist all older persons in maintaining quality of life as they age? The need for collaboration across disability and aging networks to analyze these questions is a focus of this course.

### HSDS 400 Current Issues and Special Topics in Disability Studies

Current Issues and Special Topics in Disability Studies provides opportunities to explore issues in disability studies and current topics in greater depth. The topics may vary by semester. Students will identify their own areas of interest to research. This additional research and exploration will enhance the understanding of the course materials. The instructor will work closely with students regarding topics and resources.