

*“Everything I’ve gained from this course has given me a better perspective about how individuals with disabilities can lead productive, meaningful lives.”*

-Former Student



Developmental Disabilities Institute

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The certificate program is a collaborative effort of Wayne State University's Developmental Disabilities Institute and the School of Social Work. Many other academic units provided valuable input in the program's development, and they offer cognate courses.



Developmental Disabilities Institute

**Make a Difference  
in the Lives of People  
with Disabilities.**

**Expand your Career Opportunities**

Graduate Certificate in Disabilities  
at the WSU School of Social Work

**WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY**

## You Can Earn a Graduate Certificate in Disabilities at the Wayne State University School of Social Work

- Expand your career options.
- Prepare yourself for leadership positions.
- Enroll in Michigan's only Graduate Certification in Disabilities.
- Earn a certificate quickly by taking 10 core credits (three courses) and five elective credits, most of which can be integrated into your degree program.
- Receive assistance in finding a job in the disabilities field.
- Learn to be a better advocate for people with disabilities.

### Admission

Applications for admission to the Graduate Certificate in Disabilities Program are available through the Developmental Disabilities Institute. Prerequisites include admission to a program of graduate study at Wayne State University and a minimum GPA of 2.6.

Courses are open to students holding Master's Degrees from accredited institutions of higher education and those actively pursuing a graduate degree at Wayne State University. Students must meet all course prerequisites as stated in the Wayne State University Graduate Bulletin or they must obtain the instructor's written permission to register.

### Curriculum Content

The Graduate Certificate in Disabilities Program includes 15 credits taken while working on a Master's Degree or after earning a Master's Degree. A Master's Degree within the student's discipline must be completed before the certificate is awarded.

### Core Courses

The program is built around a core of interdisciplinary courses and the practicum, which are required of all students pursuing a certificate. The following three courses provide the foundation for the student's interdisciplinary education experience.



### Disabilities in an Urban Society (3 Credits)

SW 6700, Special Topics — This course introduces topics central to understanding living with disabilities, across the life span, in an urban society. Implications for people with disabilities, their families, advocates and their service providers are addressed.

### Practicum in Disabilities (4 Credits)

SW 6750, Research Topics — This course will provide students with supervision and direction as they begin to apply the knowledge and skills associated with their profession in an interdisciplinary, service oriented environment. In working with professionals from other disciplines and with consumers of disability-related services, students will develop the leadership and teamwork skills necessary to succeed in their careers.

### Seminar in Disability Studies (3 Credits)

SW 6740, Directed Study — This seminar will allow students to integrate theoretical and practical knowledge acquired during pursuit of the graduate certificate in disabilities within the context of their own disciplines and areas of interest.

### Certificate Requirements

Courses include 10 credits of core courses and a minimum of five elective credits. The electives allow students to specialize in a particular area of practice or research, as well as in a particular age range of people with disabilities. The electives must differ from the course requirements of the graduate degree being pursued concurrently.

All coursework must be completed within three years of admission to the program (including the practicum in a setting offering services to people with disabilities). Earning the certificate requires completion of the master's degree in the student's discipline.