

## Disability Studies Minor (20 credits)

\*The minor officially begins in 2026-2027; however, students who will still be at GVSU in 2026-2027 may begin taking courses that can be applied at that time

The Disability Studies minor offers students an interdisciplinary perspective on disability within society. The program challenges traditional medical and pathologizing views of disability, promoting a social model emphasizing societal barriers and attitudes as key factors in the disability experience. The minor is ideal for students in fields such as education, healthcare, social work, public health, psychology, and public policy. The minor equips students with the knowledge and skills to promote inclusion, challenge ableism, and create more accessible and equitable communities.

Students will examine representations of people with disabilities in media, literature, and public discourse, analyzing how these portrayals shape societal perceptions and impact lived experiences. The minor explores the concept of inclusion, emphasizing the creation of environments and experiences that are equitable for all. Through coursework and practical experiences with the disability community, students gain an understanding of disability as a form of diversity. Students learn to recognize and challenge barriers to full participation and develop strategies for creating inclusive environments across various settings.

For questions regarding the minor, please reach out to one of the following Faculty Advisors:

Dr. Dawn DeVries – Recreational Therapy	<a href="mailto:devridaw@gvsu.edu">devridaw@gvsu.edu</a>
Dr. Jenny Bajewa – Allied Health Sciences	<a href="mailto:bawejaj@gvsu.edu">bawejaj@gvsu.edu</a>
Dr. Colleen Lewis – Movement Science	<a href="mailto:lewiscol@gvsu.edu">lewiscol@gvsu.edu</a>

### Required Courses (8 credits)

RTX 200	Introduction to Disability Studies and Inclusion (3 credits - NEW)
RTX 420	Disability Studies Seminar (2 credits - NEW)

#### Select one of the following courses

HPE 302	Methods of Teaching Adapted Physical Education (3 credits)
RTX 304	Diagnostic Groups (3 credits)

### Electives Courses (12 credits)

AHS 352	Introduction to Holistic Health Care (3 credits – Issues: Junior)
ANT 335	Anthropology of Disability and Ableism (3 credits)
ART 231	Integrating Visual Arts Across Disciplines (3 credits - Foundations – Art)
ASL 201	American Sign Language 1 (3 credits)
ASL 421	Deaf History and Culture (3 credits - Issues – Identity)
CSD 100	Introduction to Communication Disorders (3 credits)
EDS 317	The Myth of Normal: Disability Studies in the 21st Century (3 credits - junior)
FIT 180	Unified Sports (2 credits)
MOV 345	Disability, Sport and Physical Activity (3 credits)
HST 370	History of Medicine and Health (3 credits - Issues – Health)
PSY 303	Psychopathology (3 credits – prereq: PSY 101)
PSY 304	The Psychology & Ed. of the Exceptional Child (3 credits - prereq: PSY 101 & PSY 301 <u>or</u> PSY 364)
PSY 326	Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (3 credits – prereq: PSY 101 & PSY 301 <u>or</u> PSY 364)
PSY 366	Perspectives on Aging (3 credits – prereq: PSY 101 or PHI 101)
RTX 313	Recreational Therapy for Physical Disability (3 credits – prereq: RTX 304 or permit)
RTX 315	Recreational Therapy for Mental Health (3 credits – prereq: RTX 304 or permit)
RTX 316	Recreational Therapy for Older Adults (3 credits – prereq: RTX 304 or permit)
RTX 317	Recreational Therapy for Pediatrics (3 credits – prereq: RTX 304 or permit)
SOC 286	Health and Society (3 credits - Cultures – US Diversity, Social & Behavioral Sci)
SW 322	Responding to Chronic Illness (3 credits - Issues – Health)
SW 355	Addressing Ageism and Health (3 credits - Cultures – US Diversity, Issues – Health)