

CERTIFICATE IN DISABILITY AND NEURODIVERSITY

The undergraduate Certificate in Disability and Neurodiversity provides an interdisciplinary understanding of individuals across the lifespan with disabilities and is relevant to majors and careers in health, education, rehabilitation, and human service professions. Students will explore how disabilities interact with health, life outcomes, family, society, stigma, the physical environment, and other social identities. This certificate consists of basic coursework as well as experiential learning through research or field experiences. This certificate is open to students in all majors.

Learn more about the Certificate in Disability and Neurodiversity on the Department of Human Development and Family Studies website. (<https://www.chhs.colostate.edu/hdfs/programs-and-degrees/certificate-in-disability-and-neurodiversity/>)

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this certificate, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the history, philosophy, definitions, and rights related to disabilities and developmental disabilities.
2. Use content knowledge to investigate or optimize the development, health, and well-being of individuals with disabilities.
3. Acquire knowledge regarding the causes, outcomes, and interventions of commonly occurring disabilities and health conditions (e.g., congenital disabilities, diabetes, spinal cord injuries).
4. Describe concepts related to independence, inclusion, ableism, stigma, self-determination, empowerment, access, identity politics, and inclusion of individual differences as they relate to disability, life stage, and culture.

Requirements Effective Fall 2025

Additional coursework may be required due to prerequisites. A minimum of 9 credits must be upper division. Some elective courses are restricted to majors, minors, or honors students. Other related courses may be substituted upon approval of the certificate advisor. Additionally, students may double-count a maximum of 6 credits towards this certificate from any of the following programs of study: HDFS or Early Childhood Education majors, the HDFS Minor, the Certificate in Youth Mentoring with Campus Connections, the Certificate in Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, the Certificate in Adaptive Exercise, or the Interdisciplinary Minors in Gerontology and American Sign Language.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Course:		
HDFS 315	Disability Across the Lifespan and Culture	3
Select 6 credits from the following:		6
ANEQ 351	Techniques in Therapeutic Riding	
ETST 270	Introduction to Critical Disability Studies	
ETST 420	Disability, Race, Gender in the Environment	
HDFS 275	Foundational Helping Skills	
HDFS 317	Disabilities in Early Childhood Education	
or PSY 460	Child Exceptionality and Psychopathology	

HDFS 410	Wonder Years-Socioemotional Journey Ages 3-8
HDFS 412	Mental and Physical Health in Adulthood
HES 345	Population Health and Disease Prevention
or HES 354	Theory of Health Behavior
HES 427	Inclusive Fitness Training
LASL ***	American Sign Language
MU 241	Introduction to Music Therapy ¹
OT 355	The Disability Experience in Society
One course from the following may count:	
HDFS 101	Lifespan Development (GT-SS3)
HDFS 310	Infant and Child Development in Context
HDFS 312	Adult Development-Middle Age and Aging
HDFS 318	Baby Steps-Development from 0-3 Years
Select a minimum of 3 credits directly related to disabilities from the following ²	
AHS 487B	Human Services Internship: Gerontology ³
EDCT 485	Student Teaching ²
EDUC 485A	Student Teaching: Elementary ²
EDUC 485B	Student Teaching: Secondary ²
EDUC 485C	Student Teaching: Early Childhood ²
HDFS 286A-E	Practicum
HDFS 372/ AGED 372	Inclusive Mentoring for Neurodiverse Peers
HDFS 470A	Campus Connections: Youth Mentor
HDFS 488A-E	Internship ¹
HDFS 498A	Research: Human Development
HES 486	Practicum-Wellness Program Management ¹
HONR 499	Senior Honors Thesis ⁴
SOWK 488	Practice-Based Learning ¹
Program Total Credits:	

12

¹ Restricted to majors only.

² Only practica, internships, research assistantships, and theses focused on disabilities or neurodiversity are eligible and must be verified by the HDFS department. Other courses are eligible as appropriate.

³ Restricted to Gerontology Interdisciplinary Minors only.

⁴ Restricted to honors students only.