Disability and Community Inclusion

The Disability and Community Inclusion Unit at South Australia’s Flinders University educates human service professionals to facilitate, advocate and support the quality of life, community inclusion and self-determination of all people living with disability and their families.

As an exciting, versatile allied health profession, Developmental Educators and Disability Professionals are in high demand across Australia and internationally, particularly with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Australian National Disability Insurance Scheme.
Why study Disability and Community Inclusion?

Make important differences in people’s lives
Disability professionals play an important role in assisting people living with disability to participate in mainstream society and have their ideas and opinions heard.

Diversity in your profession
The interests of Disability Professionals are broad, incorporating community rehabilitation, health, education, technology, advocacy, recreation, community living, employment, and the arts. Among many other things, disability professionals are equipped to:
- promote the physical and emotional well-being of people with disabilities;
- teach functional skills such as social, communication and language, self-care and domestic skills, recreational skills, and employment skills;
- provide counseling support to people with disabilities;
- work with families and care-givers to enhance the quality of life of people with disabilities;
- liaise and work with community services and other professionals to facilitate community inclusion;
- facilitate self advocacy and/or advocate on behalf of people with disabilities;

A wide range of courses to choose from
Disability and Community Inclusion offers a range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses. At undergraduate level we have a range of majors in Health Science, Behavioural Science and Psychology as well as double degrees with Education that result in teacher registration. Visit http://www.flinders.edu.au/sohs/sites/disability-studies/for more information.

Graduate Certificate in Disability Studies
This is a six month (or part time equivalent) professionally oriented program designed to meet the needs of practitioners working in community services and of teachers seeking specialised education in the disability field. To enter the program students must hold an undergraduate degree, however those with extensive professional experience and/or other formal diplomas may apply for special consideration to gain entry. Students who complete the Graduate Certificate may apply to study a Master of Disability Studies.

Master of Disability Policy and Practice
This two-year course (or part time equivalent) provides an effective academic pathway for students interested in becoming professional leaders and scholars in disability. Students are invited to specialise in areas of particular interest during their coursework, and during an optional coursework project or research component (dissertation).

PhD in Disability Studies
A person holding a Masters by Research or Honours Degree in Disability Studies or an equivalent program may apply to be considered to undertake a PhD in Disability Studies. This requires the completion of a thesis based on original research. Candidates are assigned two supervisors and are required to meet with their supervisors regularly to show evidence of progress.

Interested in Applying?
For more information on eligibility criteria and how to apply visit flinders.edu.au/courses/rules/undergrad/bdde

Any Questions?
Contact Peggy Essl on P: +61 8 8201 5221 or E: Peggy.Essl@flinders.edu.au

Our Disability Courses Include...

The Bachelor of Disability and Developmental Education
This four-year degree (or part time equivalent) supports learning so graduates can work as Disability Professionals in a range of settings. The multifaceted program prepares you to not just provide physical assistance to people living with impairments but also to help them grow as individuals and achieve their personal goals. The program is available completely online for those studying from regional areas or living outside of Australia. On graduation you are eligible to become a member of the Developmental Educators Australia Inc. (deai.com.au).

Flinders University
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