

Health And Human Services

Office of Interdisciplinary Degree Programs

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Overview

Health and Human Services is one of six concentration areas in the Social Sciences Interdisciplinary major. It is an academic program designed for students interested in using an interdisciplinary approach to study health and human service delivery systems. Students focus their upper level coursework in early childhood studies, community mental health, or social gerontology. Each specialization features an internship or practicum. For more information please see the [Social Sciences Interdisciplinary Degree Programs](#).

Social Gerontology: The field of aging is rewarding and expanding rapidly. Coursework in this area and two semesters of fieldwork provide students with the foundation needed for a wide variety of career options working with the elderly or for advanced studies in the field.

Community Mental Health: Coursework for this area surveys the diverse needs of mental health clients and numerous issues in the mental health field. During two semesters of fieldwork, students do internships in mental health agencies, interact with clients and learn about resources available to help these clients improve the quality of their lives.

Early Childhood: This area of study is ideal for students who are preparing for careers with children. Professional options include careers in such areas as social work, psychology, and education. The Social Sciences Interdisciplinary programs major in Health and Human Services/Early Childhood is one of the approved majors for acceptance to UB's Graduate School of Education for early childhood/childhood education.

About our Degrees

Acceptance Criteria

Minimum GPA of 2.0 overall.
Minimum grade of "C" in [PSY 101](#) and [SSC 103](#).

Acceptance Information

Deadlines: Rolling
Number of accepted majors (2010-2011):
Community Mental Health - 140
Early Childhood - 137
Social Gerontology - 26

Total number of majors currently enrolled:
Community Mental Health - 232
Early Childhood - 238
Social Gerontology - 37

Degree Requirements

Please see [Degrees and Policies](#).

About our Courses

Each of the interdisciplinary degree programs offers a curriculum that allows students to combine coursework from three or more departments in the College of Arts and Sciences. In addition, a number of interdisciplinary and special-interest courses are offered through the IDP. There are also options to incorporate courses from other areas of the university, allowing students to obtain a broad range of skills and education.

The typical class size for:

Health And Human Services

Freshman/introductory courses is: 45-200

Sophomore/intermediate courses is: 45-50

Upper level/advanced courses is: 45-90

In the IDP concentration, what do teaching assistants (TAs) do?

Many courses in the social sciences interdisciplinary program's curricula originate in other departments, where teaching assistants may be assigned instructional or grading duties.

Suggested Introductory Courses

- [APY 105](#) Introduction to Anthropology or [SOC 101](#) Introduction to Sociology or [COM 101](#) Principles of Communication
- [BIO 129](#) Perspectives in Human Biology
- [PSY 101](#) Introduction to Psychology
- [SSC 103](#) Introduction to Health and Human Services
- A basic statistics course

For course descriptions, please see the [Undergraduate Catalog](#).

About our Faculty

The IDP faculty, though limited in number, not only teach courses applicable to the program's degree tracks, but are also involved in the advisement of IDP majors, a function that is vitally important for students selecting courses from a number of different departments. Many faculty work as professionals in their area of instruction.

Extracurricular Activities

See the [UB Student Association](#).

Practical Experience and Special Academic Opportunities

The interdisciplinary degree programs' concentrations offer an opportunity to focus studies on a particular topic whose breadth and diversity overlap several departments in the College of Arts and Sciences faculty.

Undergraduate Research and Practical Experience

Internships

The Interdisciplinary Degree Program in Health and Human Services provides an opportunity for practical fieldwork in an internship experience. The primary academic emphases of these internships notwithstanding, many graduates have found these experiences beneficial when seeking employment.

Career Information and Further Study

While the IDP degree tracks were not developed primarily to train students for specific careers, they are intended to provide an academic background relevant to a wide range of occupations and fields of graduate study.

Alumni in Health and Human Services reported being employed in the following ways:

Social Gerontology:

- Activities Assistant at Weinberg Campus
- Activities Assistant at DeGraff Memorial Hospital
- Residential Coordinator at the Buffalo City Mission
- Practice Manager at Niagara Hospital
- Activity Leader at Elderhood Healthcare

Community Mental Health:

Health And Human Services

- Alcohol & drug Support Staff at Wellness Education Services
- Nurses Assistant at Sister's Hospital
- Substitute Teacher at Gateway-Longview
- Registration Specialist at Unity Behavioral Health
- Activities Assistant at Campus Garden Club
- Mental Health Counselor at Greenwood Residences
- Case manager at Journey's End Refugee Services
- Teacher's Assistant at Cantalician Center for Learning
- IRS Specialist at People, Inc.

Early Childhood:

- Teaching Assistant at the League School
- Pre-K Head Teacher at the YWCA
- Group Leader at Crestwood Day Camp
- Program Aide at Summit Educational Services
- Para-professional at Half-Hollow Hills High School
- First grade teacher at Teach for America
- Program Administrator at People, Inc.

Alumni in Health and Human Services reported being accepted into graduate programs in the following fields:

Social Gerontology:

- Health Services Administration at D'Youville College
- Policy, Management & Behavior at SUNY Albany
- Social Work at Columbia University
- Social Work at UB

Community Mental Health:

- School Counseling at SUNY Buffalo
- Social Work at SUNY Albany
- Social Work at UB
- Nursing at D'Youville College
- School Counseling at Appalachian State University
- Social Work at Nazareth College
- Nursing at the University of Rochester
- Mental Health Counseling at Adelphi University
- Criminal Justice at SUNY College at Buffalo
- Urban Planning at UB

Early Childhood:

- Social Work at Rutgers University
- Early Childhood Education at CUNY Queens College
- School Psychology at Tufts University
- Speech Language Pathology at Hofstra University
- Elementary Education at Medaille College
- Counseling at UB
- Special Education at CUNY Queens College
- Mental Health Counseling at Adelphi University
- Early Childhood Education at UB
- Social Work at Fordham University
- Special Education at Touro College

What percentage of graduates goes on to graduate school?

50-55%

What percentage of graduates goes on find related employment?

40-45%

Health And Human Services

Degrees Offered

Undergraduate: BA in Social Sciences Interdisciplinary

Concentration: Health and Human Services (Community Mental Health, Early Childhood, Social Gerontology)

Combined: BA/MSW

Concentration: Health and Human Services/Graduate School of Social Work

See [Social Sciences Interdisciplinary](#) for degree requirements

Links to Further Information About this Program

- [Undergraduate Catalog](#)
- [Undergraduate Admissions](#)
- [Graduate Admissions](#)
- [Office of Interdisciplinary Degree Programs](#)
- [College of Arts and Sciences](#)
- [Graduate School of Social Work](#)