The Health Science curriculum exposes students to the knowledge and skill sets traditionally reserved for the first years of employment. Such increased awareness enables our students to assume leadership roles in disability services at a quicker pace, benefiting future employers and improving the lives of people with disabilities everywhere.”

- Sharon Cuff, LMSW, Clinical Assistant Professor, Health Science major

**What is included in the field of human development and disability studies?**

Human Development and Disability studies incorporates a set of principles based on the “Chicago Model”:

1. Disability is a part of the continuum of human experience; everyone has some experience with disability at some point in their lives;
2. Disability should be studied with an understanding of historical, cultural, and social contexts;
3. Disability experience is formed through complex interactions between bodies and environments; environmental barriers can be more disabling than physiology;
4. Disability studies moves beyond a medical model of disability to consider interdisciplinary, community, and consumer-based approaches;
5. Disability studies promotes an understanding of social policies that empower or prevent people with disabilities from attaining full citizenship;
6. Disability studies supports the full participation of disabled people in academia and the professions.

**What work is done by people who have disability studies training and where do they work?**

The Human Development and Disability Studies concentration prepares students at the bachelor level to immediately assume entry-level managerial positions in developmental or physical disability services, independent living centers, mental health centers, geriatric and vocational rehabilitation contexts. It may also lead to employment in organizations promoting disability rights advocacy and activism.

**What is the salary range for people employed in disability related fields?**

Depending upon your particular interests in disability services or activism, entry level salaries range from $25,000 to $40,000.

**What else should I know?**

An undergraduate concentration in human development and disability studies provides an excellent preparation for students interested in graduate study in disability studies, rehabilitation counseling, physical and occupational therapy, social welfare, medicine, psychol...
Students can declare the Health Science major at any time during their academic career. All major courses are taken during the senior year.

- In order to begin your senior year courses in the major, you must have a G.P.A. of at least 2.0 and have successfully completed 91 credits.
- You must also have met all D.E.C. requirements, including at least 16 credits in natural sciences (D.E.C. E), 21 credits of related electives, and 10 upper division credits.
- Successful completion of the following courses during the fall semester of your senior year is required:

  - Health Care Issues
  - Professional Ethics and Health Care
  - Communications Skills
  - Professional Writing
  - Health Informatics
  - Medical Terminology (2 credit elective may be taken)

Additional pre-requisites based on your area of interest may be required.

For additional information, visit the following websites:

- Professional Organizations
  - Disability Studies Quarterly
    www.dsq-sds.org
  - The World Institute on Disability
    www.wid.org

- Occupational and Employment Information
  www.bls.gov
  salary.com
  www.salary.monster.com
  www.labor.state.ny.us