

Disability Studies

BACHELOR OF ARTS, PART-TIME PROGRAM

www.ryerson.ca/ds



“As a student who is nearing the end of my long journey in the program, the effect of every single course, lecture, presentation and instructor I have had the privilege to come in contact with is reflected in everything I do. Whether it be my work, my family life or in a social sphere I have been molded and shaped by what I have learned and as a result I am a better asset to those I come in contact with, especially those with a disability.”

Paula Murphy

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Ryerson Disability program is the first of its kind in Canada to provide a degree education from a disability studies perspective. It is based on the premise that the disadvantage typically experienced by those who are disabled reflects, primarily, the way society defines and responds to disability.

The program builds on the direct experience you have acquired within a Developmental Services Worker program, or through another disability-related College of Applied Arts and Technology diploma (or other related post-secondary education), and through work experience.

You will develop an increased awareness of the sociopolitical context of disability and learn to apply this perspective to issues facing people with disabilities.

The program prepares you for leadership roles in direct care, management, community development, policy, planning and advocacy, in both paid and volunteer activities.

The program has been designed in close consultation with leading practitioners, employers, educators, government representatives and members of the disability community.

AS A GRADUATE, you can look forward to careers in community-based agencies, advocacy roles within the disability movement, or to the continuation of your studies at an advanced level, such as:

Manager, Special Services at Home, Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services

Learning Strategist, Centre for Students with Disabilities, OCAD

Family Support Coordinator, Brockville and District Association for Community Involvement

Literacy Instructor, Limestone District School Board of Education

Teachers, Boards of Education across the province

Funding Officer, Sunnybrook Centre for Independent Living, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

PROGRAM FEATURES

This part-time, degree completion program leads to a Bachelor of Arts in Disability Studies.

Core courses examine:

- Disability Theory
- History of Disability
- Community Building
- Advocacy
- Social Policy
- Empowering Practices
- Access and Technology
- Leadership
- Research Methods
- Ethics
- Media Representation of Inequality

An independent study project provides you the opportunity to extend and apply your learning.

Elective courses are offered in the areas of:

- Nonprofit and Volunteer Sector
- Human Services Management
- Crisis Intervention
- Homelessness
- Ethnic Diversity
- Gender and Sexuality
- Urban Geography
- Mad People's History
- Equity and Human Rights

Faculty are experts drawn from across a range of disability fields. People with disabilities are involved in the ongoing development, implementation and monitoring of this program.

The program requires the equivalent of two years of full-time study, although the length of time required to complete it depends on the number of courses taken at any one time. You may take up to eight years to complete your study requirements.

One-on-one program planning sessions are available to help you set up and alter your yearly course selection plans.



Rebecca Beayni, "Passion",
Poster paint on brown wrapping paper
(Toronto, 2003)



FLEXIBLE COURSE DELIVERY

Flexible course delivery formats maximize your access as an adult learner, and possibly, as someone with a disability. It is offered only on a part-time basis, in recognition of the time constraints facing adult learners.

All required courses are available as either intensive on-site courses or through distance education via Internet (or in combination) to promote access for people from across Ontario.

You are required to take up to three courses in the intensive on-site format, at Ryerson, with the on-site period typically extending over a period of two weeks.

“Despite the fact that I have worked, volunteered and been educated about people with disabilities for about fifteen years now, I can honestly say that I learn something new every day in my courses at Ryerson. I only wish that more people could share in this wonderful experience.”

Tracy Beck

For admissions and application information, visit
www.ryerson.ca/undergraduate/admission.

To learn more about the program, contact
Melanie Panitch, Director, School of Disability Studies
416-979-5000, ext. 6128.

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