

Human Services Programs

Disability Studies

2-year Diploma Program

Fee Category: I

Note: VIU also offers a Community Support Worker Certificate and a Special Education Assistant Certificate.

The Program

This program provides advanced-level training for working in the community living, disability and disability-related sections. It builds on Vancouver Island University's Community Support Worker Certificate and Special Education Assistant Certificate programs (or equivalents) and offers flexible delivery options. The program includes the following components:

- Courses which explore leadership, advocacy, social policy, citizenship, community organizing, and community development as they relate to the disability sector.
- Engaged learning experiences by examining collaborative research methods and learning through community service.
- Elective courses drawn from a wide-ranging selection of options from different disciplines relevant to the disability field.

This program uses workplace or community-based projects to help students integrate and apply classroom learning in practice, while making a contribution to their home community and/or services. This first offering of the Disability Studies Program will be implemented in Powell River.

Students who successfully complete the program will receive a Vancouver Island University diploma.

A free information session is usually held in February for programs beginning the following September. Attendance is highly recommended. Check with the Advising Centre for dates and times, 250-740-6410, or visit viu.ca/infosessions.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the diploma program will gain and/or enhance their skills to work in a broad range of disability sector positions including supervisory/administrative roles and more specialized direct service roles with community agencies, private service providers and some government services.

Admission Requirements

- General admission requirements apply.
- English 12 with a min. "C+" grade, or equivalent.
- Group interview.
- Two letters of reference.
- Resume, application and covering letter.

Apply for Admission Online or Print Application Form

Recommendations for Admission

- Volunteer or paid experience working with people who are mentally, physically or behaviourally challenged.

Notes on Admission

- Practicum will require a criminal record check prior to placement. Students are advised that a criminal record may limit their practicum possibilities and their work opportunities in the Human Services field.
- For admission to the program, applicants will be assessed on past academic achievement, related volunteer/paid employment, writing skills and performance at a group interview with faculty.
- Applicants may be required to provide a letter from a family physician confirming they have the physical capacity required to work in the field.

Admission to the Second Year of the Disability Studies Diploma

Students must have completed a Community Support Worker Certificate (CSW) or Special Education Assistant Certificate (SEAC) or equivalent.

Graduation Requirements

To be eligible for a Disability Studies Diploma, students must:

- Complete all of the required program courses and obtain a minimum "C" grade in every course.
- Achieve a passing grade in the practicum course.
- Complete all requirements within 5 years.

Start Date and Application Deadline

Students normally start the program in September, and applications are accepted between November 15 and March 31. Some courses may be offered on a rotating basis and may not be available each year at each campus.

Transfer Credit (from other institutions)

Vancouver Island University recognizes the academic knowledge and achievement of students who have undertaken post-secondary studies at other colleges, institutes, or universities. Credit is assigned on the basis of an official transcript, course outlines, and other supporting documentation.

Student Transfer into Other Programs

Although it may be possible for students to transfer into other Disability Studies Diploma programs across the province, the probability of acceptance into other programs depends on the receiving institution.

Program Outline

CSW and SEAC courses	Credits
CSW 110 (Alternative Communication and Assistive Technology)	3
CSW 111 (Service Planning)	3
CSW 112 (Health and Personal Care)	3
CSW 182T (Practicum II) <i>or</i> SEAC 182T (Practicum II)	3
CSW 201 (Challenging Conditions)	3
Choose <i>one</i> of the following courses: ENGL 115 (University Writing & Research) ENGL 125 (Literature and Culture) ENGL 135 (Literature and Criticism)	3
HSER 101 (Introduction to Human Services)	3
HSER 110 (Working in the Community Context)	3
HSER 150 (Effective Interpersonal Communication)	3
HSER 251 (Working with Behaviour)	3
PSYC 111 (Contemporary Psychology I) <i>or</i> PSYC 131 (Child Development I)	3
PSYC 112 (Contemporary Psychology II) <i>or</i> PSYC 132 (Child Development II)	3
SEAC 110 (Classroom Assisting)	3
Total CSW and SEAC credits	39

Disability Studies	Credits
DIDS 210 (Leadership, Advocacy, and Social Policy)	3
DIDS 220 (Action Research and Learning in Community)	3
DIDS 230 (Practicum)	3
Choose <i>one</i> of the following courses: ENGL 115 (University Writing & Research) ENGL 125 (Literature and Culture) ENGL 135 (Literature and Criticism)	3
SSER 250 (Community Development)	3
Electives*	6
Total credits for Disability Studies Diploma	60

* Electives chosen from Humanities and Social Sciences (e.g. Anthropology, First Nations Studies, Global Studies, History, Sociology, Women's Studies).

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