

Archived: September 9, 2021

Human Services Programs

Leadership and Disability Studies

Location Offered:

Online

Credential:

Diploma

Program Length:

2 Years

The Program

This program provides advanced-level training for working in the community living, inclusive education, disability and disability-related sectors. It builds on Vancouver Island University's [Education Assistant and Community Support certificate program \(previously School and Community Support Worker\)](#) or other acceptable alternatives. The program includes the following components:

- Courses which explore leadership, advocacy, social policy, citizenship, community organizing, and community development as they relate to inclusion and 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 leadership and the disability field.

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.

The Leadership and Disability Studies Diploma is a pathway to numerous 3rd year degree options.

Program Delivery

The Leadership and Disability Studies Diploma at Vancouver Island University will accept students into Year 2 of the program and will be delivered through distance education. Students must have access to high speed internet. Students will:

- Participate in an online orientation prior to program commencement.
- Participate in courses that have both asynchronous (online access to course materials) and synchronous (online access to course materials, audio and visual discussion, e.g. Skype) course delivery methods.
- Participate in a one week on site intensive experience in Powell River.

This program uses workplace or community-based undergraduate research projects to help students integrate and apply classroom learning in practice, while making a contribution to their home community, school or organization.

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

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.

Prior Learning Assessment

Prior Learning Assessments are also available for students with substantial work experience or other closely related activities.

Program Outline

Year 2	Credits
LDS 200 - (Citizenship and Human Rights)	3
LDS 210 - (Leadership, Advocacy, and Social Policy)	3
LDS 220 - (Action Research and Learning in Community)	3
LDS 230 - (Leadership and Disability Studies Practicum)	3
LDS 250 - (Community Development)	3
<i>One of:</i> PSYC 111 - (Contemporary Psychology I) <i>or</i> , PSYC 121 - (Developmental Psychology) <i>or</i> , PSYC 131 - (Child Development I) <i>or</i> , SOC 111 - (Introduction to Sociology) <i>or</i> , MGMT 192 - (Principles of Management) <i>or</i> ,	3
<i>One of:</i> PSYC 112 - (Contemporary Psychology II) <i>or</i> , PSYC 122 - (Developmental Psychology) <i>or</i> , PSYC 132 - (Child Development II) <i>or</i> , SOC 112 - (Canadian Society in the Contemporary World) <i>or</i> , MGMT 292 - (Organizational Behaviour)	3
University-level English*	3
Approved elective**	6
Total credits	30

* *Minimum "C" grade required.*

** *Refer to the Leadership and Disability Studies department page for a list of approved electives or discuss with Program Advisor, Coordinator, or Chair.*

Completion Requirements

To be eligible for a Leadership and 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.

Admission Requirements

To be eligible for admission to the second year, students must have:

- Successfully completed the Education Assistant and Community Support certificate (previously the School and Community Support Worker certificate) or an acceptable 30 credit alternative including 3 credits undergraduate degree English requirement or equivalent.

Recommendations for Admission

- Volunteer, paid, or personal experience working alongside individuals who live with cognitive, physical, mental, or emotional challenges.

Notes on Admission

- For admission to the program, applicants will be assessed on past academic achievement, related volunteer/paid employment, and writing skills. An interview may be required.
- Criminal Record Check. Fieldwork and/or practica will require a satisfactory criminal record check prior to placement. Criminal Record Checks are requested through Vancouver Island University. The Registration Centre at VIU will contact prospective students by mail regarding the requirements for a Criminal Record Check. Criminal Record Checks are processed through the British Columbia Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General in conjunction with the Criminal Records Review Act. A check completed through a local police detachment is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the Act.

Career Opportunities

Start Date and Application Deadline

The program starts in September and applications are accepted between the first business day in October, and March 31.

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