Developmental Disabilities and Human Services (DDHS) specialization program

If you are a pre-health student and interested in learning about working more effectively with individuals who have intellectual and developmental disabilities, consider applying to the Developmental Disabilities and Human Services (DDHS) specialization program.

The DDHS specialization is a unique combination of coursework (9 credits) and internship experience (3 credits).

**Courses**

Students can pick from a broad list of courses. Students in the DDHS program have priority registration into the PSYCH classes. These courses can count toward a major or minor in Psychology. Here are some sample courses:

- Intellectual Disability: Concepts and Controversies (PSYCH 480)
- Impact of Disabilities on Families (PSYCH 481)
- Autism Spectrum Disorder (PSYCH 397D)
- Introduction to Disability Studies (PSYCH 391SV)
- Disability Identity: Intersections of Race, Gender and Sexuality (PSYCH 391DG)

**Service learning courses**

We offer several service learning courses in which students get experience directly working with people with disabilities as part of a course. These courses are open to all students (not just those in the DDHS program). Each of these courses counts 40 hours toward the 120 hour internship requirement.

- **Campus to Community Respite Care Program**, in which students provide weekly respite care to a local family raising a child, adolescent or adult with an intellectual or developmental disability (Community Service Learning, PSYCH 191M)
- **Equine Assisted Services for People with Disabilities**, in which students assist with adapted horseback riding lessons with community participants with disabilities at the UMass Hadley Farm or another farm off campus (Therapeutic Riding Instruction, ANIMLSCI 397G)

**Internship**

Students also complete a 120 hour internship for 3 credits. Sites include early intervention programs, school programs, as well as adult residential and day programs, among others. Internships can be completed in any semester (including summer). The DDHS program director can advise you on the best options, given your career path.

Visit the website for more information: [http://blogs.umass.edu/ddhs](http://blogs.umass.edu/ddhs). Applications are considered on a rolling basis. Applications can be submitted online through the DDHS website (or [click here](http://blogs.umass.edu/ddhs)).
Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Ashley Woodman, Ph.D. (she/her)
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Psychological and Brain Sciences
Tobin Hall 409
413-545-0292
Zoom: https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/my/woodman409

Program Director, Developmental Disabilities and Human Services
blogs.umass.edu/ddhs