

INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (GRADUATE CERTIFICATE)

<https://chhs.unh.edu/sw/certificate-programs>

Description

About the Program

The College of Health and Human Services, Department of Social Work at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) and the New Hampshire Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (NH-LEND) training program at the Institute on Disability cosponsor the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Graduate Certificate program. The needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities extend beyond the boundaries of any one discipline. Therefore, this program emphasizes an interdisciplinary, collaborative approach to providing holistic, family-centered services to children and families. This 12 credit hour interdisciplinary program is designed to focus on the development of advocacy and practice skills for professional work with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Students enrolled in the graduate certificate program will benefit from collaboration and interaction with faculty and students from many departments within the university. Additionally, students will benefit from working with staff and faculty associated with the Institute on Disability. A unique feature of this program is its collaborative relationship with the NH-LEND program. The NH-LEND program focuses on developing educational excellence related to:

1. the most current knowledge regarding neurodevelopmental disabilities,
2. the process of interdisciplinary collaboration and partnership, and
3. strategies for continuous improvement of effective leadership.

Students in the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities program will participate in a two semester Special Topics Seminar series on Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities with MCH-LEND trainees and faculty representing the disciplines of health management and policy, nursing, nutrition, occupational therapy, pediatrics, physical therapy, psychology, social work, speech language pathology, and special education.

Who Should Apply

- Individuals interested in improving the quality of life for children with special health care needs and disabilities and their families
- Individuals enrolled in the New Hampshire-Leadership in Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (N-LEND) training program
- Individuals interested in developing leadership skills to work with children with special health care needs and disabilities, and families
- Individuals interested in taking graduate-level courses at a leading university, with the option of applying credit toward a graduate degree in their respective disciplines

- Individuals interested in working with a dynamic interdisciplinary group of faculty and students
- Individuals interested in advancing their careers
- Individuals interested in developing new career options

Contact Information

Individuals holding a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution are eligible to apply. Applicants must submit:

1. an application form,
2. official transcripts, and
3. a \$25 processing fee (this fee is waived for graduate students who are currently enrolled).

Applications are available by contacting the program coordinator. Applications will be accepted anytime, and admissions decisions are made promptly. For more information about the program and the application process, contact:

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Requirements

Certificate Requirements

There are two separate tracks for this program. Track 1 is for students enrolled in the New Hampshire-Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (NH-LEND) training program. Track 2 is for all other students. The program of study consists of two required courses (6 credit hours), and two (2) electives (6 credit hours) or one (1) elective and one (1) three(3)credit hour independent study. Below is a detailed description of each track.

Track 1 (NH-LEND Trainees)

Required courses

HHS 898	Special Topics (LEND Seminar – Fall Semester)	3
HHS 898	Special Topics (LEND Seminar – Spring Semester)	3

Electives

Select one of the following:	6
Two electives ²	
One elective and one three-credit hour independent study ¹	

Total Credits	12
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¹ Related to disability and/or special health care needs focused on children, youth, and/or families.

² Electives with a focus on Developmental Disabilities may be accepted upon approval from the Graduate Certificate Coordinator

An independent study can focus on leadership, policy, practice, or research that supports individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For example, students could conduct a policy analysis, research, program evaluation, advocacy, training, or other systems change related activity (3 credits).

Track 2 (All Other Students)

Required Courses

Select one of the following:		3-4
SW 812	Understanding Developmental Disabilities (Spring)	
EDUC 850	Introduction to Exceptionality (Fall)	
COMM 916	Autism Spectrum Disorders (Spring)	3
or SW 897	Special Topics in Social Work and Social Welfare	

Electives

Select one of the following:		6
Two electives ²		
One elective and one three credit hour independent study (see below) ¹		

Total Credits	12-13
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¹ Related to disability and/or special health care needs focused on children, youth, and/or families.

² Electives with a focus on Developmental Disabilities may be accepted upon approval from the Graduate Certificate Coordinator

An independent study can focus on leadership, policy, practice, or research that supports individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For example, students could conduct a policy analysis, research, program evaluation, advocacy, training, or other systems change related activity (3 credits).

All coursework for the certificate must be completed within three years. Students who successfully complete the program will receive an official student certificate from the University of New Hampshire Graduate School.

Courses completed during the certificate program may be applied toward degree requirements upon the approval of the appropriate graduate program coordinator and the Graduate School. Tuition is equal to the rates for resident graduate degree students. Tuition for nonresident students will be 10 percent above the resident rate.