



California State University, Long Beach  
College of Education- Graduate Studies  
1250 Bellflower Boulevard, EED-7  
Long Beach, CA 90840-2201  
562-985-8476

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## INFORMATION AND APPLICATION PACKET

# GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN APPLIED DISABILITY STUDIES

Website:

[www.csulb.edu/college-of-education/graduate-certificate-applied-disability-studies](http://www.csulb.edu/college-of-education/graduate-certificate-applied-disability-studies)

Prospective students with inquiries about the Graduate Certificate may contact  
Program Coordinator, Dr. Susan Leonard-Giesen:

[Susan.Leonard-Giesen@csulb.edu](mailto:Susan.Leonard-Giesen@csulb.edu)

Prospective students with inquiries about the application may contact the Graduate Studies Office:

[ced-gradstudies@csulb.edu](mailto:ced-gradstudies@csulb.edu)

562/985-8476

### **APPLICATION DEADLINES**

**APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED ON A ROLLING BASIS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. IT IS RECOMMENDED STUDENTS  
SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATION AT LEAST ONE YEAR PRIOR TO THEIR INTENDED GRADUATION DATE.**

## PROGRAM INFORMATION

The interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Applied Disability Studies is designed to prepare graduate students from a variety of disciplines to further their understanding of the experience of disability across the lifespan. Students will become familiar with research, advocacy, interventions, and policy that facilitate successful life outcomes for persons with disabilities.

The focus is placed on the application of the field of disability studies to enhance the preparation of graduate students to work in their chosen professional disciplines (e.g., education, healthcare, social work, counseling, gerontology, engineering, web design, psychology, technology, etc.). Through coursework and fieldwork from across Departments and Colleges in the University, students will learn to adopt a person-centered approach in their work with persons with disabilities.

### **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION MISSION STATEMENT**

The College of Education at CSULB is a learning and teaching community that prepares professional educators and practitioners who promote equity and excellence in diverse urban settings through effective pedagogy, evidence-based practices, collaboration, leadership, innovation, scholarship, and advocacy.

### **PROGRAM GOALS**

The Graduate Certificate Program in Applied Disability Studies at CSULB has the following goals.

The program will:

1. Introduce the candidate to concepts, approaches, strategies, and experience of disability across the lifespan
2. Promote a person-centered approach to facilitating life outcomes for individuals with disabilities
3. Familiarize the candidate with legal, ethical, civil rights, self-determination, technology, and advocacy issues associated with disability

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Admitted students will complete a Program of Study with the program coordinator regarding appropriate course selection. It is important that candidates take courses in the advised sequence. Some courses may only be offered during one semester each year. Candidates will therefore need to be available to take courses at the day, time, and semester they are offered. The certificate program consists of 12 units. Some of the 12 units required for the certificate may be met through coursework and fieldwork that is required as part of a student's graduate degree program.

### FOUNDATION COURSES (6 UNITS)

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- EDSP 570 Community Inclusion: Introduction to Individuals with Disabilities (3 units)
- Select one of the following two courses:
  - EDSP 525- Advocacy and the Educational Context of Disability (3 units)
  - REC/GERN 469/569 - Disability, Culture and Society: Issues and Intervention (3 units)

### FIELDWORK (3 UNITS)

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- Complete 3 units of clinical field experience/internship. This fieldwork will typically be a required component of the graduate degree program that you are currently pursuing. You will sign a contract ensuring that you will complete 90 hours of fieldwork with individuals with disabilities during your graduate fieldwork. Additional information about the Fieldwork requirement may be found at: [www.csulb.edu/college-of-education/graduate-certificate-applied-disability-studies/guidelines-fieldwork](http://www.csulb.edu/college-of-education/graduate-certificate-applied-disability-studies/guidelines-fieldwork).

### ELECTIVES (3 UNITS)

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- Choose 3 units of electives in consultation with the Program Coordinator for the Graduate Certificate Program for Applied Disability Studies. Please visit: [www.csulb.edu/graduate-certificate-applied-disability-studies/program-courses](http://www.csulb.edu/graduate-certificate-applied-disability-studies/program-courses) for a list of approved electives. Please note that some elective courses may require prerequisites and/or may require instructor consent. This list is subject to change.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year. It is recommended students submit their application at least one year prior to their intended graduation date. If you have questions about completing the application, please contact the College of Education Graduate Studies Office at 562-985-8476 or [ced-gradstudies@csulb.edu](mailto:ced-gradstudies@csulb.edu).

### APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Admission to the Graduate Certificate in Applied Disability Studies is only available to students currently enrolled in a Master's or Doctoral Degree program at CSULB.

### PROGRAM APPLICATION PROCEDURES

The program application may be found on page 5 in this packet. **Applications may be submitted in-person or via traditional mail. Electronic submissions are not accepted.**

Send materials to the Graduate Studies Office as one complete packet containing all documents listed on the Application Checklist (Please do not submit items separately):

California State University, Long Beach  
College of Education, Graduate Studies Office  
1250 Bellflower Boulevard, EED-7  
Long Beach, CA 90840-2201

Applicants will receive an email notification once their application has been processed by the College of Education Graduate Studies Office.

## ADMISSION PROCESS

### PHASE 1: APPLICATION REVIEW

You must submit all of the items listed on the program application (see pages 5 & 6 of this packet). The Admissions Committee will review the application and you will be notified by email regarding the status of your application. This may take up to two weeks from the date of submission. An individual interview may be required before final acceptance to this certificate program. You will either be admitted to the program or denied admission to the program.

### PHASE 2: PROGRAM OF STUDY

Candidates who successfully complete Phase 1 of the application process including having completed all paperwork, will be contacted by the Graduate Studies Office to make an appointment with the Program Coordinator to create a Program of Study. Students will be advised as to the appropriate sequence of classes. It is important that students attend carefully to the advised sequence of classes as course offerings are limited to those in the certificate program.



# APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Graduate Certificate in Applied Disability Studies  
California State University, Long Beach

The information on this page may be typed or hand-written.

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

First Name:

Last Name:

MI:

Other Names, if applicable (for example, maiden name):

CSULB Student ID #:

Preferred Phone:

Alternate Phone:

Email Address:

## ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Name of CSULB Degree Program:

Expected Semester and Year of Completion:

## ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

Previous Degree(s)/Certificates Earned

College/University

Date Issued

## PROGRAM APPLICATION CHECKLIST:

You must provide all of the items listed below to the Graduate Studies Office (EED, Room 7).

- Application for Admission (this page)
- Résumé
- Personal Statement (guidelines on page 6 of this packet)
- Current unofficial CSULB transcript

Applicants will receive an email once their application has been processed.

My signature below certifies that I have read the program information and I am familiar with the program's goals, mission, requirements, and procedures as posted.

Applicant's Signature:

Date:



## PERSONAL STATEMENT

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Please respond to the prompt below in no more than 2 pages typewritten, double-spaced with 12-point font. This is a presentation of you as a prospective professional, thus a clear and comprehensive written sample is essential.

Why are you interested in pursuing the Graduate Certificate in Applied Disability Studies? What personal or professional experiences have you had with persons with disabilities?