**Purpose**

Current upper-level undergraduate students are eligible to pursue an Interdepartmental Certificate in Developmental Disabilities, which provides a foundation of knowledge regarding etiology, treatments and policy issues related to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. This certificate program will enable students to be better prepared for professional endeavors and community interactions with people with disabilities.

**Admission Requirements**

Certificate applicants must be enrolled as an undergraduate student at Florida State University. Students should consider application no later than the first semester of their junior year. Classes are offered during each semester throughout the academic year.

**Certificate Requirements**

Within a five-year time period, students seeking certification must satisfy 9 credit hours of coursework and 3 credit hours of practicum from the approved list of courses and approved practicum sites. The current list of approved courses may be obtained from the School of Communication Science & Disorders Certificate Program Coordinator and found at <http://commdisorders.cci.fsu.edu/academic-programs-admissions/undergraduate-programs/>. More than 20 courses are available in the following disciplines: Art Education, Communication Science & Disorders, Family and Child Sciences, Middle & Secondary Education, Music Education & Therapy, Nursing, Psychology, Social Work, and School of Teacher Education.

An application is required and may only be submitted when 2 prerequisite courses have been completed. Practicum placement is limited and generally fills 2-3 semesters prior to the semester of placement, so please submit your application as soon as you have completed two courses. Applications must be submitted ***at least one semester prior*** to graduation, but this does not guarantee practicum availability.

Priority will be given based on when a copy of your unofficial transcript showing all 3 completed courses required with a 3.0 GPA is received and approved. Please send unofficial transcripts to ddcertificate@gmail.com.

**Program of Studies**

1. Course of study approval by School of Communication Science & Disorders academic advisor upon admission to certificate program. Please refer to the Developmental Disabilities Certificate Course Offerings document for a comprehensive list of eligible courses to fulfill the requirements. <http://commdisorders.cci.fsu.edu/academic-programs-admissions/undergraduate-programs/>
2. Coursework
	* The certificate program consists of twelve (**12**) credit hours to include: A core course (**3 hours**), two elective courses (**6 hours**) and participation in a practicum course (**3 hours**).
	* No more than 3 credit hours may be taken in the student’s major area of study.
	* The student ***must*** maintain a **3.0** in the required coursework (*at least a B in* ***each*** *course*).
	* ***PLEASE NOTE: Students must complete the nine hours of classroom credit in three different departments.***
3. Community Experience
	* Students ***cannot*** participate in the practicum until all prerequisite coursework is completed.
	* The three (3) credit hour practicum course comprised of **45 hours** of volunteer service learning hours to be completed at an off-campus placement with individuals with developmental disabilities. 3-4 hours of volunteer service will be expected for each of the 15 weeks of the semester.
	* The practicum***must*** be completed over a full semester (Fall, Spring, or Summer Session A only) with a minimum of 10 written reflection logs.
	* Students are responsible for transportation to and from their practicum placement and any costs related to background checks required for their site.
	* This placement is arranged through the Certificate Program Coordinator and will be determined on the first day of class in Room 310 located in FSU’s Warren Building, at 201 West Bloxham.
	* Face-to-face classes occur only once at the beginning of the semester to determine placements and once at the end of the semester for group discussion and for the distribution of certificates. Weekly online reflections and assignments are included in the syllabus.

**For further information contact:**

**Dr. Juliann Woods, Program Coordinator**

**School of Communication Science & Disorders**

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