

Faculty



Dr. Pamela Cushing
Associate Professor
Founder of Disability Studies @ King's

Dr. Cushing, PhD (Anthropology), founded this program after a decade of ethnographic research and teaching. She is passionate about creating an innovative curriculum for diverse students that showcases how transformative the DS approach can be for disabled people and socio-cultural and organizational change.



Dr. Jeffrey Preston
Assistant Professor

Dr. Preston, PhD (Media Studies), brings experience in policy and public service to scholarship and teaching excellence with a focus on digital and popular culture, media representation and social psychology.



Dr. Erika Katzman
Assistant Professor

Dr. Katzman, PhD (Health and Rehabilitation Science), is a registered occupational therapist who applies disability studies and creative pedagogical innovation to reimagine education and practice in DS and the health professions.



For more information

Disability Studies
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KING'S

Disability Studies

Building bridges across difference

A place to **be**. A place to **become**.



Disability Studies

The King's Disability Studies (DS) program creates space for rethinking the traditional medical approaches to imagining disability, mental health and related social institutions. We use everyday life cases, and the first-person voices of disabled people, to unsettle common misperceptions about life with disability. We illustrate how to shift away from old assumptions that it is the person with impairments that needs 'fixing', towards creative new ways to think about adapting social, policy and built environments to be more inclusive.

We strive to build in direct experiences with the disability community – individuals and organizations – for our students through guest speakers, field site visits, and research opportunities. Students often find these engaging encounters transform their sense of how they can make a difference in the world.

Students can do a Major or a Minor module in DS paired with any other disciplinary modules. Details are on the website under 'Programs offered'. Credit equivalency available for college student transfers.



Career Options

How will a Disability Studies degree work for you?

Our graduates possess a unique understanding of disability, mental health, and society's role in creating barriers. Disability studies prepares students to excel in all kinds of future careers. Examples of fields our students get involved in during and after their degrees include:

Education
Teacher, Curriculum Consulting Special Education, Educational Assistant Deaf/Blind Itinerant, ASL Interpreter
Applied Health
Medicine, Audiology, Social Work Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy Speech & Language Pathology
Business
Human Resources Accessibility Training & Planning Consulting
Communications
NGOs, Charities Journalism, Media Advertising
Policy
Government, Advocacy, Law

Choose Your Pathway

Focus your studies in one of four streams:

1. **General Disability Studies**
2. **Inclusion, Leadership, Health & Education**
3. **Culture, Attitudes & Media Representation**
4. **Intellectual/Developmental Disability and the Community**

Customize your schedule with approved courses from Disability Studies, Psychology, Sociology, Philosophy, Political Science, Thanatology, Social Work, Childhood and Youth Studies, and more.

In the words of our students

DS changed my life. It was the motivation to me to become an advocate and to have a more optimistic outlook regarding my own struggles.

– Ron R.

My experience with my community partner has enabled me to expand my knowledge and understanding of what it truly means to have a good life for people with disabilities. This course has taught me that by listening to people with disabilities, individuals can build mutual trust, even friendships.

– Michaeline F.

The DS courses really complement my Psychology major and my work in mental health assessment labs. DS helped me discern ways to re-think some standard gaps in Psychology's understanding of how to communicate with, and support, disabled people in a therapeutic setting. Learning and working with the Deaf community inspired me to consider an ASL interpreter career.

-Julia K.

Course Topics

- Rethinking Disability
- Disability Labels
- Education
- Institutionalization
- Media and Representation
- Sports and Recreation
- Bioethics and Law
- Policy, Rights and History
- Narratives and Care
- Cross-Cultural Perspectives
- Autism Controversies
- Rehabilitation Sciences
- Diverse Perspectives and Theory
- Camps and Inclusion
- Gender and Sexuality
- Mad Studies
- Community-Based Experience
- Faith and Spirituality
- Research and Knowledge Mobilization