

Revised by: V. Herder
Reviewed by: S. Vaughan
Date revised: Spring 2013
C & G Ed approval: January 17, 2014
Board approval: February 12, 2014
Semester Effective: Spring 2015

Disability Studies (DS) 1502 Disabilities and the Law (3) CSU
[formerly Direct Support Education 2 and 1502; Social Science 2]

Advisory: Eligibility for English 1500 strongly recommended

Total Hours: 48 hours lecture

Catalog Description: This course provides general guidelines for documentation, recording activities and/or events, different types of documentation, effective documentation methods, and the importance of confidentiality. This course also provides an overview of the laws regarding rights and issues as they relate to individuals with disabilities and recipients of services.

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Text: Milani, Adam A. and Ruth Colker. *Everyday Law for Individuals With Disabilities*.
Boston: Paradigm, 2006. Print.

Colker, Ruth, and Adam Milani. *Federal Disability Law in a Nutshell*. 4th ed. St. Paul: West, 2010. Print.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, a successful student will be able to:

1. examine the purpose of documentation,
2. analyze the types and effectiveness of documentation,
3. examine the legal aspects of confidentiality and documentation,
4. examine individual rights and choices,
5. evaluate the barriers and restrictions for individuals with developmental disabilities, and promote and facilitate client's individual rights, and
6. examine laws regarding the rights of individuals with disabilities.

Course Scope and Content:

Unit I Purpose of Documentation
A. Purposes for documentation
B. Good and poor examples of documentation

Unit II Effectiveness of Documentation
A. Five critical areas of documentation
B. Rules of legal documentation
C. Objective writing
D. How to complete a "late entry"

- Unit III Legal Aspects of Confidentiality and Documentation
 - A. Definition of confidentiality
 - B. Confidentiality and compliance with the law
 - C. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability (HIPAA) regulations
 - D. Legal representatives of individuals with developmental disabilities
 - E. Emergency release of confidential information

- Unit IV Individual's Legal Rights and Choices
 - A. Process of appointing a legal representative
 - B. Bill of Rights of agencies/organizations
 - C. State and federal laws that affect people with disabilities

- Unit V Barriers and Restrictions
 - A. Barriers and restrictions of an individual with developmental disabilities
 - B. The affect of barriers and restrictions

- Unit VI Laws
 - A. Rehabilitation Act of 1973
 - B. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
 - C. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
 - D. No Child Left Behind Act
 - E. State laws impacting persons with disabilities

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

1. Review online tutorials and video clips
2. Complete writing and reading assignments
3. Participate in individual and group assignments

Methods of Instruction:

1. Lectures
2. Group discussions
3. Classroom exercises
4. Individual and/or group projects

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Instructor evaluations
2. Tests/quizzes
3. Research paper