

# DIVERSITY STUDIES, CERTIFICATE (UNIVERSITY COLLEGE)

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Requirements for an undergraduate certificate may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the certificate.

## Program Description

This certificate is designed to provide students with an overview of issues concerning diversity. Students will take one foundational class and additional courses examining women, gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, and religion.

## What is Diversity Studies?

Diversity Studies is an interdisciplinary academic field that is interested in examining social differences defined by culturally constructed categories of race, class, gender, religion, ethnicity, age, diversity, and other markers of identity. Diversity Studies however tends to focus on our own lived experiences, and how our perception of these markers influences personal and cultural interactions – especially our own! It investigates systems of power that organize our schools, workplaces, healthcare systems, criminal justice system, and media, many of them invisible to us. Around the globe those systems of power are organized very differently, sometimes in fundamental ways. Diversity Studies approaches differences intersectionally to expose, critique, and confront historical and contemporary sources of social and cultural conflict. This does not mean “looking past” differences; rather, looking straight at them to find the common ground and empathy that can make us better citizens.

## You Might Like This Program If...

- You want to better understand people from different backgrounds.
- You are interested in impacting social problems.
- You want to stretch your own perspectives and actions.