

# YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE, CERTIFICATE

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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

The 12-credit certificate program was designed to help understand the unique challenges facing adolescents and young adults. Intended for counselors, educators, family therapists, social workers and other professionals dedicated to serving the developmental needs of youth in contemporary society, the program provides an overview of the major issues that impact youth development from a social justice perspective.

## What is Youth Development and Social Justice?

The Youth Development and Social Justice (YDSJ) program focuses on the promotion of positive youth development within the context of social justice. The YDSJ framework views young people as assets and active change agents with the capacity to transform their lives and the world toward equity and justice.

The program provides an overview of the interconnectedness between youth development and youth resistance to social injustice. Students in the YDSJ minor will: 1) analyze issues of equity and oppression in relation to youth development, 2) work directly with youth in the community, and 3) apply theory to practice to build on the strengths of communities and youth. The program is experiential in nature and students learn by doing in trainings, workshops, and community settings.

## You Might Like This Program If...

- You are interested in youth empowerment and social change.
- You want to study big questions, such as such as: 'what does equitable education look like?' and 'how does youth organizing translate to social policy?'.
- You want to make a difference in the lives of youth and communities.
- You want to learn about the impacts of discrimination and oppression on youth development.
- You want to pursue a career in behavioral health, social work, education, advocacy, nonprofit administration, community development, public policy, community organizing, or criminal justice.