



Intellectual and Developmental Disability (Semester 3, 3 ECTS)

Description

In the context of typical lifespan development, this course examines the nature of intellectual and developmental disability, with reference to developmental processes, classification systems for developmental delay, early diagnosis and intervention, dual diagnosis, the transition from adolescence to adulthood, and adult development and aging. Historical trends in the provision of services for people with an intellectual disability are considered, as are the values that underpin current service provision. The course also examines causes and characteristics of intellectual disabilities; syndromes and their origins (e.g., autistic spectrum disorders, Down's syndrome, foetal alcohol syndrome); common associated conditions (e.g., epilepsy, cerebral palsy); problem areas such as challenging behaviour, profound and multiple disability, language and communication disorders; assessment tools for measuring and diagnosing intellectual and developmental disability; and evidence-based interventions for improving the quality of life of persons with intellectual and developmental disability in family, school, and community settings. The course also reviews services for persons with intellectual and developmental disability in Iceland.

Learning Outcomes

On completing the course students should be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge of the nature of intellectual and developmental disability and associated problems for individuals and families
- demonstrate knowledge of assessment and intervention strategies suitable for persons with intellectual and developmental disability and their families
- demonstrate knowledge of intellectual and developmental disability services in Iceland

Assessment

Students are required to participate in classroom reading and discussion assignments, and are assessed by essay and end-of-semester examination.