

Program Options

Coursework in this area may be taken individually, to obtain a Developmental Disabilities Certificate or as part of the Human Services Technology associate degree.

Associate Degree in Applied Science, Human Services Technology with a concentration in Developmental Disabilities (76 credit hours)

- Includes general education, human services and developmental disabilities curriculum credit courses

Specialization Certificate in Developmental Disabilities (18 credit hours)

- Includes the following curriculum credit courses:
 - DDT 110 Introduction to Developmental Disabilities
 - DDT 120 Teaching Individuals with Developmental Disabilities
 - DDT 210 Health Issues
 - DDT 220 Program Planning
 - DDT 230 Supported Employment Methods
 - DDT 240 Aging with Lifelong Disabilities

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This program has given me the knowledge and practical experience (through internships) to understand and help the individuals with whom I am working. These courses would be beneficial to anyone who is working in the field of developmental disabilities.

— Graduate of Associate Degree Program in Developmental Disabilities



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CENTRAL PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Developmental Disabilities Program

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HUMAN SERVICES

TECHNOLOGY



Developmental
Disabilities
program



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Developmental Disabilities Program

In North Carolina there are over 150,000 persons with mental retardation and/or developmental disabilities. In Mecklenburg County, over 16,000 people with mental retardation and/or other developmental disabilities are served by approximately 40 agencies.

Program Description

A key component of service provision is identifying the individual needs and supports for persons with disabilities. The CPCC Developmental Disabilities Program is designed to teach students to work with children and adults with physical, mental and emotional disabilities. Students specialize in the area of developmental disabilities and gain an understanding of the support needs of individuals in medical, psychological, social, educational, vocational and economic terms. The program offers fieldwork in community agencies which provide comprehensive services to persons with disabilities and/or their families.

What does *developmental disability* mean?

Individuals with developmental disabilities have a wide range of skills and needs. The term *developmental disability* refers to an individual with a mental or physical impairment or combination of both who has support needs in three or more areas of life such as self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. In order to have a defined developmental disability, the disability must occur during the years of development or before age 22. Diagnostic labels commonly associated with or included in the term of developmental disability are mental retardation, cerebral palsy, learning disabilities, epilepsy, head injury, autism, psychiatric disabilities, behavior disorders and multiple physical disabilities.

Career opportunities

This is an exciting time to pursue a career in working with individuals with developmental disabilities. The past three decades have produced major advances in legislation, education and services for individuals with disabilities. With the support of innovative services, families are raising their children at home rather than in institutions, children previously considered uneducable are attending public schools, and adults with developmental disabilities are becoming productive and contributing members of their communities both at work and home. The CPCC degree and certificate programs in this area help prepare students to qualify for such positions as:

- Community home support staff
- Respite service staff
- Employment specialists/job coaches
- Community coaches
- Support brokers
- Vocational support staff
- Teacher assistants
- Advocacy staff
- Case managers
- Family support staff

Developmental Disabilities Program

The short-term benefit from the Developmental Disabilities Program at CPCC is staff members that bring greater awareness and skills to consumer services. These are also the staff that are better prepared for professional and management opportunities.

— President & CEO
Human Services Provider Organization