



COURSE OUTLINE: DSS300 - DEVELOPMENTAL DIS.

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Approved: Rebecca Keown - Dean

Course Code: Title	DSS300: DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Program Number: Name	3070: PER/DEV SUPPORT SERV
Department:	PERSONAL SUPPORT WORKER
Academic Year:	2025-2026
Course Description:	Through this course, students will learn about the history and evolution of Developmental Services in Ontario. They will be provided with an overview of current supports and services provided provincially. Current trends in the developmental services sector will be discussed. Mission and vision statements, values and organizational goals and priorities will be reviewed from the Community Living Agency, as an example of a service provider. The course will focus on sharing information about specific diagnoses, dual-diagnosis and aging.
Total Credits:	3
Hours/Week:	3
Total Hours:	42
Prerequisites:	PSW150, PSW151, PSW152, PSW153
Corequisites:	There are no co-requisites for this course.
This course is a pre-requisite for:	DSS305, DSS306, DSS307
Vocational Learning Outcomes (VLO's) addressed in this course:	3070 - PER/DEV SUPPORT SERV
Please refer to program web page for a complete listing of program outcomes where applicable.	VLO 1 Work within the personal and developmental support services role in a variety of healthcare and community settings in accordance with all applicable legislation and employer's job description, policies, procedures and guidelines.
	VLO 3 Provide person-directed and centred support that is sensitive to diverse values, cultures, beliefs and needs to promote client self-motivation and self-integration while maintaining privacy and confidentiality.
	VLO 6 Support the health and well-being of clients across the lifespan by applying basic knowledge of growth and development, common alterations in functioning, disease prevention, health promotion and maintenance, rehabilitation and restorative care.
Essential Employability Skills (EES) addressed in this course:	EES 1 Communicate clearly, concisely and correctly in the written, spoken, and visual form that fulfills the purpose and meets the needs of the audience.
	EES 2 Respond to written, spoken, or visual messages in a manner that ensures effective communication.
	EES 4 Apply a systematic approach to solve problems.
	EES 6 Locate, select, organize, and document information using appropriate technology and information systems.



- EES 7 Analyze, evaluate, and apply relevant information from a variety of sources.
 EES 8 Show respect for the diverse opinions, values, belief systems, and contributions of others.
 EES 11 Take responsibility for ones own actions, decisions, and consequences.

Course Evaluation:

Passing Grade: 50%, D

A minimum program GPA of 2.0 or higher where program specific standards exist is required for graduation.

Books and Required Resources:

Developmental Disabilities in Ontario by Brown, I. & Percy, M. (Eds)
 Publisher: ONTARIO ASSN DEV DISABILITIES Edition: 4th
 ISBN: 9781777163709

Course Outcomes and Learning Objectives:

Course Outcome 1	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1
1. Analyze the definition of developmental disability, specific diagnostic categories and implications across the lifespan.	1.1 Reflect on personal biases and assumptions regarding people who experience developmental disabilities. 1.2 Define developmental disability. 1.3 Discuss the definition of developmental disability currently defined by government legislation in Ontario. 1.4 Describe self-advocacy. 1.5 Review the processes of assessment and diagnosis. 1.6 Reflect on the advantages and disadvantages of labeling. 1.7 Research and share learning regarding specific diagnostic categories. 1.8 Describe dual-diagnosis and related services and supports. 1.9 Evaluate the importance of early intervention. 1.10 Explore the current process for youth transitioning to adult developmental services in Ontario. 1.11 Reflect on considerations specific to the aging process.
Course Outcome 2	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 2
2. Evaluate the impact of institutionalization on current trends in the provision of services and supports.	2.1 Summarize the history of institutionalization for people with developmental disabilities. 2.2 Recognize the impact of trauma on people and their families. 2.3 Explain the concept of deinstitutionalization. 2.4 Describe current legislation in Ontario. 2.5 Research vision and mission statements of local, provincial and national service providers.
Course Outcome 3	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 3
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of a holistic, person-centred approach, inclusion, and respect for diversity in the lives of people with developmental disabilities.	3.1 Describe the implications of diagnostic overshadowing. 3.2 Define present-day barriers to inclusion. 3.3 Relate respect for diversity to person-centred practice. 3.4 Create a visual presentation which conveys an understanding of the importance of belonging



Evaluation Process and Grading System:

Evaluation Type	Evaluation Weight
Diagnostic Label Presentation	20%
Group Activities & Discussions	20%
Inclusion Mind Map	20%
Journal Reflections	40%

Date:

August 13, 2025

Addendum:

Please refer to the course outline addendum on the Learning Management System for further information.

