



Institute on Disability and Public Policy

for the ASEAN Region

Networking » Leadership » Accessibility » Inclusion

Master's in Comparative and International Disability Policy

Overview

The Master's in Comparative and International Disability Policy (CIDP) offers an in-depth analysis on the convergence between disability studies and public policy. This intensive Master's program is designed to facilitate the emergence of a cadre of leaders that will strive toward the development of disability-inclusive public policy across the public sphere, the private sector, academia, and civil society.

Offered by American University's School of International Service through the Institute on Disability and Public Policy, the CIDP program has the distinction of being the world's first virtual Master's program in disability policy, and the first entirely online degree at American University. The program is designed to ensure equal opportunities for persons with disabilities to capitalize upon their own unique capabilities. This distance learning program brings students from around the world together virtually. The program has developed an ongoing strategy for usability testing that ensures courses continue to maintain the highest degree of accessibility for its students and faculty. The CIDP program is geared to develop both the academic and professional skills of its M.A. candidates.

Curriculum, Credits, and Concentration Tracks

Students have the option of completing the CIDP program as an accelerated one year or extended part-time program. Courses can be experienced in real-time or accessed on-demand. Courses incorporate universal design principles, and are accessible to blind, deaf, and mobility impaired students.

The CIDP degree consists of 39 total credits. 24 of the aforementioned credits are allotted for core courses, which focus on developing a theoretical framework for international studies, disability studies, and public policy analysis. Students must complete three courses (nine credits) in their chosen concentration. Concentrations include: disability studies; management and leadership; or an approved customized specialization. The remaining six credits are allotted for a required practicum project or Master's thesis.

Annual Residency Period

The CIDP program begins with a two week face-to-face residency, and ends with a graduation ceremony after the successful completion of all degree requirements. Each candidate for the CIDP degree is required to participate in the two week orientation in-person or virtually at the beginning of his/her program. The residency begins with an introduction to the program, and includes sessions on the curriculum; training on the cyberinfrastructure tools used for the duration of the program; and key lectures and expert seminars designed to allow students to participate successfully in the M.A. program.

For information about the accreditation and licensing of American University, please visit american.edu/academics

