

A Course on the Intersectionality of Disability, American Indians, and Rurality

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NASX 595 Course Topics:

- History and Policies of American Indians Part 1
- History, Policies of People with Disability, and Intersectionality Part 2
- Population-Level Health Outcomes
- Cultural Competency & Building Relationships
- Monitoring, Surveillance & Intervention
- Advocacy
- Children & Elders
- Inclusive Research with Tribal Communities
- Tailored & Accessible Approaches to Services
- Special Topics: Disease & Health
- Trauma Informed Care
- Mental Health & Drug Use
- Resources in Rural Settings

Course Development: Detailed Process



Rural Institute
For Inclusive Communities

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Course Description:

This course is designed to teach students about the intersectionality of disability, race and rurality in a public health setting. We will focus on public health topics relevant to American Indians with disability who reside on American Indian reservations. Montana is a rural state that is home to twelve tribal nations and seven Indian reservations located in rural and isolated settings. An intersectionality approach examining rurality, disability, American Indian cultures and American Indian communities will be the primary focus of public health topics. This course is designed to:

- increase awareness of contextual factors impacting these populations;
- provide professionals who work with these populations an overview of culturally-relevant and community-adapted tools;
- incorporate definitions and applications of multiculturalism, social justice and advocacy;
- increase knowledge of adopting a health equity lens to positively impact the overall health of American Indians with disability.

Assignments:

Weekly Discussion Forum or Quiz: Occurs weekly and covers course materials for that week. Quizzes are open-ended, so both activities provide students an opportunity to share their perspective and experience regarding the course topic, while also creating dialogue.

Gathering Data Using BRFSS: Develop a brief report on one of the six AUCD Focus Areas (e.g., Wellness and Mental Health) utilizing American Indian with disability characteristic (e.g., blind or low vision) population and relevant health outcomes data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).

Resources and Services Group Project: Identify disability resources and services on or near one of the seven Montana Indian Reservations.

Identifying Intersectionality through Digital Storytelling: Develop digital stories on the intersection of disability, an American Indian community and rurality in Montana that is informed by differing knowledge sources (e.g., community, academic/research, professional).

Course Objectives:

Develop an understanding of the unique needs of people with disabilities, especially those living in rural areas and on Montana's American Indian Reservations.

1. Develop an understanding of the unique needs of people with disabilities, especially those living in rural areas and on Montana's American Indian Reservations.
2. Increase awareness around accessibility issues for people with a disability living in rural areas.
3. Develop an understanding of Montana's American Indian tribal cultures, locations, and contemporary issues.
4. Develop cultural competence by increasing awareness of personal attitudes, beliefs and biases.
5. Develop an understanding of and appreciation for the differences of others including backgrounds, experiences, attitudes and values and how these impact your work.
6. Describe the National Center on Disability in Public Health's six focus areas that address health disparities for people with disabilities. (<https://nationalcenterdph.org/>)
7. Discuss personal and professional challenges of providing impactful services to people with a disability.
8. Discuss agency and structure as frameworks for describing public health issues as it relates race, disability, and morality.