



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE TUCSON

Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities

Education | Research | Service
Expanding Possibilities | Enhancing Independence

Undergraduate Certificate in Developmental Disabilities Program

Since the launch of our interdisciplinary certificate in developmental disabilities in 2015, 25 students from diverse disciplines have completed the program. Learn what some of our graduates had to say as they reflected on their certificate experience.

Alumni Reflections



“Being involved with the Sonoran Center was an enriching experience that shaped my growth as a young professional and emerging leader. Through the certificate program, I gained valuable knowledge and hands-on experience in the disability field, which deepened my passion for working with this community. My time as a trainee provided me with the skills and insights necessary to excel in my current role and future endeavors. I’m deeply grateful to the mentors and peers who supported and guided me throughout this journey!”

*Nadine Chau, 2023-24 Trainee Cohort; BA in Psychology with a minor in Sociology;
Current Project Research Assistant at the Georgetown University UCEDD*

"As an undergraduate student at the University of Arizona, obtaining the Certificate in Developmental Disabilities through the Sonoran Center’s UCEDD was an eye-opening experience. It provided enriching exposure to the world of disability, both inside and outside the classroom. By working with faculty and community members, I felt I gained a deeper understanding of the many ways to foster inclusive and accessible spaces. During my time in the program, I particularly enjoyed the research and community engagement opportunities that students are encouraged to participate in. I am deeply appreciative of the perspective my time as a trainee for the Sonoran UCEDD has given me, and I am confident it will continue to influence all of my future endeavors. I am currently in the midst of applying to be a hearing aid attendant (non-licensed) and applying to be a volunteer at a medical clinic.”



Andrew Leung, 2023-24 Trainee Cohort; BS in Neuroscience and Cognitive Science & BA in Biochemistry



“Participating in this 12-unit certificate program helped me learn about research, policy, and practice in the IDD field while conducting research on cardiovascular health of middle school aged children with IDD and volunteering at a prosthetics clinic as a translator. This was a great way to synthesize many fields of interest while practicing academic, professional and leadership skills.”

Bianca Aguilar, 2018-19 Trainee Cohort; BS in Physiology with a minor in Family Studies & Human Development

“I loved the wide exposure to various professionals in the disability field. The opportunity to hear about their work, their personal connections to disability, and ask questions in a small setting was invaluable! I sincerely enjoyed every person I worked with at the UCEDD; the research experience is one I am incredibly grateful for and the certificate program as a whole made me feel much more equipped with the foundational knowledge I need to start working with people with disabilities.”

Clare Emmert, 2017-18 Trainee Cohort; BS in Special Education & Rehabilitation and Family Studies & Human Development; Currently pursuing doctorate in Occupational Therapy at Boston University



“I liked getting the educational knowledge that I could integrate and relate with my personal experiences with disabilities. The faculty and other students were great.”

Regina Barry, 2016-17 Trainee Cohort; BS in Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences and Linguistics; Currently pursuing a master’s degree in Communication Sciences & Disorders at Texas A&M University-Kingsville

