The Certificate of Advanced Study (CAS) in Disability Studies is a NYS-approved program in the School of Education, open to any graduate student at Syracuse University, including law students. It requires 15 credits in Disability Studies courses and an exam.

Joint Degree Law Students
All law students who are matriculated into the Joint Degree Program in Disability Studies in the School of Education’s Cultural Foundations of Education (CFE) Program are eligible to apply for the CAS. Of the 30 credits for the M.S. in CFE, 15 credits will count towards the CAS, including 6 credits in law school courses (Disability Law and Advanced Disability Law Seminar or International and Comparative Disability Law). Official recognition of the CAS will appear on the graduate transcript which is separate from the law school transcript.

J.D. (only) Students
Law students who are not pursuing a Joint Degree are also eligible to apply for the CAS. They must successfully complete 15 credits for the CAS, which typically includes 6 credits from law school courses (Disability Law and Advanced Disability Law or International and Comparative Disability Law). This means that law students must take 9 additional credits in Disability Studies to receive the CAS. Law students must receive prior permission from the Coordinator of Disability Studies to enroll in Disability Studies courses.

Please note that law students who are not enrolled in a joint degree program may apply no more than 6 non-law school credits to the 87 credits required for graduation. This means that the additional three credits required for the CAS may be taken during the summer but that any credits over 17/semester will not appear on the law school transcript, according to ABA rules. Credits for the CAS will appear on a graduate school transcript which is separate from the law school transcript.

For both Joint Degree and Non Joint Degree Students
The Pass/Fail option is not available for non-law courses. Further, no credit will be awarded towards the CAS if the law student receives a grade below “C+” in courses taken for the CAS. In addition, students who register for 12-19 credits in the fall or spring semesters are charged the full-time law tuition rate, regardless of whether the courses are all law school courses, all non-law graduate courses, or a combination of both. If a law student registers for more than 19 credits/semester, the student will be charged for each additional credit at the law school rate, regardless of whether the credits are part of the law school or non-law graduate program.

Applications
Applications for the CAS may be submitted at any time during the law student’s second semester of the first year in law school and anytime during the first semester of the student’s second year in law school. Students are selected based on their law school transcript, a personal statement, and a letter of recommendation (typically from Prof. Kanter). Students must first secure the approval of the Senior Assistant Dean for Student Life before enrolling in the CAS. Final decision for admission to the CAS Program rests with the School of Education’s Coordinator of the Disability Studies Program, who is currently Prof. Alan Foley.

For more information, contact Prof. Kanter at kantera@law.syr.edu and Prof. Foley at afoley@syr.edu