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Alumni Profile

Alyssa Heil

BA '15 Sociology and Disability Studies

Current Career

Organization: Elgin Community Support Services Network

Title: Intake Coordinator

Career Overview

I graduated from Kings in 2015 with a BA in Sociology and a Minor in Disability Studies. I have worked mainly for not-for-profit environments. As an Intake Coordinator for the Elgin Community Support Services Network, I help seniors and people with disabilities find programs and services in the community to help them maintain their independence. I also work part-time with Community Living Elgin, supporting people with developmental disabilities in both a group home environment and living independently.

How did King's prepare you for your current role?

King's started the Disability Studies minor while I was here. The first Disability Studies course I took was "Disabilities Across Cultures." The small class sizes were really helpful to get to know people and for networking. Networking is a huge part of not-for-profit work. With the amount of work and collaboration with different organizations in the community there is, being able to talk to and relate to people is a really important skill.

What advice would you give to a student looking to enter your field?

Take risks. I applied for a job I wanted, but it was completely out of my comfort zone. I got the job and I have much more satisfaction with the work I am doing now.