

CHILD DEVELOPMENT, CERTIFICATE

Requirements for an undergraduate certificate may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the certificate.

Program Description

This 15 credit certificate will provide the core information and competencies for students interested in pursuing the field of child development. Students will be provided with a broad overview of the developmental processes underlying child and adolescent development. This certificate will be attractive to both psychology majors as well as adult students taking courses part time for career advancement. The certificate may also serve as the gateway to a minor or major in psychology. It is consistent with psychology program goals to develop clear career tracks for current students interested in the applied fields of psychology.

What is Child Development?

Child development is a broad field of study involving the physical, intellectual, psychological, and emotional progression of children and adolescents. The certificate in Child Development offers a wide overview of the processes underlying child and adolescent development and the influences of developmental contexts such as family, school, peers, and culture.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You enjoy working with children and adolescents and want to learn more about their physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development.
- You are interested in a career in human services, behavioral health, education, family services, policy and advocacy work, community programs, or child care.
- You want to pursue a career in education.

Program Requirements

To earn an undergraduate certificate in Child Development, a minimum of 15 credits is required.

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
PSYCH 212 or HDFS 129	Introduction to Developmental Psychology Introduction to Human Development and Family Studies	3
Select 6 credits of the following:		6
PSYCH 410	Child Development	
PSYCH 412	Adolescence	
PSYCH 476	Child Psychopathology	
Select 6 credits of the following:		6
EDPSY 14	Learning and Instruction	
HDFS 229	Infant and Child Development	
PSYCH 221	Introduction to Social Psychology	
PSYCH 238	Introduction to Personality Psychology	
PSYCH 256	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	
PSYCH 413	Cognitive Development	

PSYCH 414	Social and Personality Development
PSYCH 473	Behavior Modification

Certificate Learning Objectives

- Describe key concepts, basic principles, and overarching themes used in developmental psychology.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the major domains of development and the biological, psychological, cognitive, and social influences on development within these domains.
- Explain the differences between the major theories of cognitive development and learning.
- Understanding of developmental considerations that influence the diagnosis, behavioral manifestation, and treatment of childhood disorders.

Academic Advising

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/>)

Erie

Charisse Nixon, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychology
Federal House, 5343 Station Road
Erie, PA 16510
814-898-6041
cln5@psu.edu

Schuylkill

Academic Advising Office

Academic Affairs

200 University Drive
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972
570-385-6111
sl-advising@psu.edu

Career Paths

The certificate in Child Development can be pursued by Penn State Behrend undergraduate students and as a stand-alone credential for nondegree students. It is useful for Psychology majors as well as for adult and traditional students interested in careers working with children and adolescents. Penn State Behrend has a comprehensive support system to help you identify and achieve your goals for college and beyond. Meet with your academic adviser often and take advantage of the services offered by the Academic and Career Planning Center beginning in your first semester.

Careers

Child development specialists work in day care centers, preschools, schools, social work agencies, hospitals, and health care clinics. They can be teachers, special education paraprofessionals, parent educators, educational consultants, child life specialists, clinicians, psychologists, researchers, or case managers.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES WITH A CERTIFICATE IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT (<https://behrend.psu.edu/school-of-humanities-social-sciences/academic-programs-1/certificate-programs/child-development-certificate/>)

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

Working with children and adolescents in a clinical or educational setting requires education beyond a bachelor's degree. Penn State Behrend offers a Master of Arts degree program in Applied Clinical Psychology that includes optional preparation for the Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) credential.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (<https://behrend.psu.edu/school-of-humanities-social-sciences/academic-programs/master-of-applied-clinical-psychology/>)

Professional Resources

- American Psychological Association (<https://www.apa.org/>)
- Society for Research on Adolescence (<https://www.s-r-a.org/>)

Contact

Erie

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
170 Irvin Kochel Center
4951 College Drive
Erie, PA 16563
814-898-6108
HSSOffice@psu.edu

<https://behrend.psu.edu/school-of-humanities-social-sciences> (<https://behrend.psu.edu/school-of-humanities-social-sciences/>)

Schuylkill

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, SOCIAL SCIENCES
200 University Drive
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972
570-385-6083
aem141@psu.edu