School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences

Child Learning and Development (BS)

Providing better ways to foster the intellectual and emotional development of all of our children is a national priority. As such, well-educated university graduates are needed to go on to become expert child development practitioners and researchers. Over the last 60 years, the academic disciplines of developmental psychology and child development have accumulated a vast body of research-based knowledge about the factors that promote optimal child learning, development and well-being, as well as those that contribute to disadvantaged child development. The Child Learning and Development major provides undergraduate students with a rigorous science-based curriculum that immerses them in the theories, findings, research methods, and best practices that the scientific study of child development has to offer.

The Child Learning and Development major focuses on the fundamental processes of child and adolescent development within the contexts of families, schools, peer groups, and larger cultural milieu. Its three objectives are to provide students with a strong foundation in 1) cognitive, language, and socio-emotional development, 2) research skills for conducting scientific studies and evaluating applied programs, and 3) translating scientific findings into practical applications for understanding and improving children's lives. Opportunities for supervised and independent research, as well as field placements that involve working with children, families, schools, and social services, are provided in addition to formal work.

The Child Learning and Development major prepares students for a wide range of careers in education, psychology, social work, family medicine, public health, family law, and public policy. The major is especially well suited for students seeking elementary teacher certification (early childhood - 6th grade) through UT Dallas’ Teacher Development Center. By combining a major in Child Learning and Development with elementary teacher certification, students will develop a strong foundation in child development and teaching. Elementary Teacher Certification requires a minimum of 45 additional semester credit hours of coursework that can be completed within the free elective semester credit hours of the Child Learning and Development major. If you are interested in this combined child development/education program (called CLD/EC6), see an advisor to develop a degree plan.

Bachelor of Science in Child Learning and Development

Degree Requirements (120 semester credit hours)¹

View an Example of Degree Requirements by Semester
Faculty

**Professors:** Margaret Tresch Owen, Pamela R. Rollins, John W. Santrock, Melanie J. Spence

**Associate Professors:** Shayla C. Holub, Mandy J. Maguire, Candice M. Mills, Jackie Nelson, Andrea Warner-Czyz

**Assistant Professor:** Meghan Swanson

**Professor Emerita:** Susan W. Jerger

**Senior Lecturers:** Meridith Grant, Karen Huxtable-Jester, Nancy Juhn, Emily Touchstone

I. Core Curriculum Requirements: 42 semester credit hours

**Communication: 6 semester credit hours**

- [COMM 1311](#) Survey of Oral and Technology-based Communication
- [COMM 1315](#) Public Speaking
- [RHET 1302](#) Rhetoric

**Mathematics: 3 semester credit hours**

Choose one course from the following:

- [MATH 1306](#) College Algebra for the Non-Scientist
- [MATH 1314](#) College Algebra
  
or [MATH 2417](#) Calculus I

**Life and Physical Sciences: 6 semester credit hours**

Select 6 semester credit hours from [Life and Physical Sciences Core](#) courses

**Language, Philosophy and Culture: 3 semester credit hours**

Select 3 semester credit hours from [Language, Philosophy and Culture Core](#) courses

**Creative Arts: 3 semester credit hours**

Select 3 semester credit hours from [Creative Arts Core](#) courses

**American History: 6 semester credit hours**

Select 6 semester credit hours from [American History Core](#) courses

**Government / Political Science: 6 semester credit hours**

Select 6 semester credit hours from [Government/Political Science Core](#) courses
Social and Behavioral Sciences: 3 semester credit hours

PSY 2301 Introduction to Psychology

Component Area Option: 6 semester credit hours

PSY 2317 Statistics for Psychology

or STAT 1342 Statistical Decision Making

or STAT 2332 Introductory Statistics for Life Sciences

AND one of the following:

PSY 2314 Lifespan Development

PSY 2364 Animal Communication

CGS 2301 Cognitive Science

II. Major Requirements: 36 semester credit hours

Major Preparatory Courses: 6 semester credit hours (0 semester credit hours beyond Core Curriculum)

PSY 2301 Introduction to Psychology

PSY 2317 Statistics for Psychology

or STAT 1342 Statistical Decision Making

or STAT 2332 Introductory Statistics for Life Sciences

Major Core Courses: 21 semester credit hours

CLDP 3303 Normal Language Development

or CLDP 3305 Language and Literacy Development

CLDP 3310 Child Development

or CLDP 3339 Educational Psychology

CLDP 3332 Social and Personality Development

CLDP 3342 Exceptional Children

or CLDP 4344 Child Psychopathology

CLDP 3362 Cognitive Development

or CLDP 3365 Child Learning

PSY 3392 Research Design and Analysis

CLDP 3394 Research and Evaluation Methods
Major Related Courses (15 upper-division semester credit hours)

Guided Electives: 3 semester credit hours of one of the following:

- **CLDP 4394** Internship
- or **BBSU 3310** Community-Based Service Learning
- or **CLDP 4390** Directed Research and Writing
- or **CLDP 4391** Individual Study and Writing
- or **CLDP 4395** Co-op Fieldwork
- or **CLDP 4397** Thesis Research
- or **CLDP 4V96** Teaching Internship
- or **CLDP 4V98** Directed Research
- or **CLDP 4V99** Individual Study


III. Elective Requirements: 42 semester credit hours

Free Electives: 42 semester credit hours

Students are encouraged to explore areas of concentration in Child Learning and Development as well as explore interests outside the field. Be aware that at least 51 semester credit hours of upper-division courses are required for graduation.

Incoming freshmen must enroll and complete requirements of **BBSU 1100**.

Fast Track Baccalaureate/Master's Degrees

UT Dallas undergraduate students with strong academic records who intend to pursue a master's degree in Human Development and Early Childhood Disorders (HDCD) at UT Dallas may consider an accelerated undergraduate-graduate plan of study. If accepted into the program, students may take up to 15 semester credit hours of graduate courses that may be used to complete the baccalaureate degree and also to satisfy requirements for the master's degree. Students must maintain a 3.000 grade point average and earn grades of B or better in graduate courses taken.

Students should apply for Fast Track admission in the semester they reach 90 semester credit hours. To qualify for application, undergraduate students must have completed at least 18 semester credit hours in major core courses at UT Dallas. To be eligible for Fast Track admission, students must have completed at least 90 semester credit hours toward a baccalaureate degree, completed a minimum of
36 hours of general education core curriculum classes, and meet program admission requirements, including submission of GRE scores. Apply to the Fast Track program through the HDCD Program Office. Students should consult with a graduate advisor regarding admissions criteria and plans of study.

Minor in Child Development: 18 semester credit hours

This minor is well suited for students pursuing Elementary Teacher certification and for those generally interested in the psychological development of children. Students must complete 18 semester credit hours including 9 required semester credit hours of foundation coursework and 9 semester credit hours of guided electives. At least 12 semester credit hours must be upper-division courses, of which at least 9 semester credit hours must have been completed at UT Dallas. Students majoring in Psychology or Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences may minor in Child Learning and Development provided that no course is used to satisfy both major and minor requirements.

Foundation Courses: 9 semester credit hours

Choose three courses from the following:

- **PSY 3310** Child Development
- or **PSY 3339** Educational Psychology
- **PSY 3332** Social and Personality Development
- **PSY 3362** Cognitive Development

Guided Elective Courses: 9 semester credit hours

Choose three courses from the following:

- **PSY 3342** Exceptional Children
- **PSY 4344** Child Psychopathology
- **PSY 4373** Psychological Assessment
- **PSY 4394** Internship in Psychology
- or **ED 4693** Student Teaching - Elementary (approval of the Teacher Development Center required)
- **SPAU 3303** Normal Language Development
- **SPAU 3305** Language and Literacy Development
- **SPAU 4308** Language Disorders in Children
- Other courses as approved by the Associate Dean

1. Incoming freshmen must enroll and complete requirements of UNIV 1010 and the corresponding
school-related freshman seminar course. Students, including transfer students, who complete their core curriculum at UT Dallas must take UNIV 2020.

2. Curriculum Requirements can be fulfilled by other approved courses from institutions of higher education. The courses listed are recommended as the most efficient way to satisfy both Core Curriculum and Major Requirements at UT Dallas.

3. A required Preparatory course that also fulfills a Core Curriculum requirement. Six (6) semester credit hours are counted in Core Curriculum.

4. Required for EC-6 Teacher Certification.

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