CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Child Development Department (http://www.csuchico.edu/child/)
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Insight

The Department of Child Development offers opportunities for students to learn about current child development theories and research, and to observe and apply this knowledge during practical field experiences.

Our program focuses not only on prenatal, infant, and early child development, but also middle childhood, adolescence, and emerging adulthood. We offer a comprehensive approach to:

- Learning about children's social, emotional, cognitive, physical, and neurodevelopment.
- Assessing children and environments (developmental needs, behavioral guidance, home, school, community).
- Analyzing developmental contexts (including gender, ethnicity, social class, culture).
- Understanding how relationships (e.g., family, peer, romantic) shape development.
- Internship courses that allow students to apply knowledge, learning experiences, and critical thinking skills in professional settings.

In addition to developmental period courses (i.e., prenatal/infancy, early and middle childhood, adolescence, and emerging adulthood), we offer courses on dating, marriage, parenting, family relations, children's gender and sexuality, risk and resilience, social and emotional intelligence, and global perspectives of childhood.

We have exceptional faculty with expertise in a wide array of child development topics and areas of professional work related to children and families. Our advisors and faculty are highly involved with students, helping them develop their academic and career goals.

Child development majors have the opportunity to participate in three internship courses that are embedded in the major, each one offering students diverse opportunities to gain important work-related knowledge, experiences, and applied skills under the guidance and supervision of staff and faculty. Some students may complete honors in the major, gaining essential research-related skills and opportunities. Additionally, we offer several unique 1-unit courses to help students further explore their professional and academic interests.

Experience

Child development provides a wide variety of courses and internships designed to prepare students for work in careers focused on children and families. For example, students gain knowledge and experiences that can help prepare them to pursue a teaching career, work in human service agencies that support children and families, engage advocacy, and conduct research. Faculty assist and support students' professional development by fostering collaborative learning environments that integrate high-quality teaching, mentoring, promoting scholarly activities, guiding relevant practical experiences, and modeling leadership.

We have a very active Child Development Student Association (CDSA) that is advised by one of our faculty members. Attending CDSA meetings provide opportunities to:

- Meet other peers who are taking or have taken child development courses and may be interested in pursuing similar careers.
- Learn from professionals about their work in related fields.
- Develop leadership skills/experiences for those who are interested in becoming an officer.

Outlook

Students in the Department of Child Development understand how development and environments affect children and families and apply this knowledge in a variety of personal and professional settings. Graduates of the program are knowledgeable and reflective professionals who have gained valuable field experience and who recognize and value the uniqueness and diversity of children and families within and across multiple contexts.

Our graduates work in a variety of professional fields including public and private education (pre-K–12), childcare staff and administration, early intervention and other human service agencies, community programs (e.g., YMCA, Boys & Girls Clubs, youth development), behavioral assessment, family resource and referral specializations (e.g., foster care and adoption), and parent support programs. Many of our graduates obtain additional degrees to work as child life specialists, social workers, counselors, school psychologists, researchers, and program or agency directors.

Programs

Undergraduate

Bachelor's


Minors


See Course Description Symbols and Terms (https://catalog.csuchico.edu/academic-standards-policies/course-description-symbols-terms/) for an explanation of course description terminology and symbols, the course numbering system, and course credit units.
CHLD 198 Special Topics 1-3 Units
Prerequisite: Department permission.
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
This course is for special topics offered for 1.0-3.0 units. Typically the topic is offered on a one-time-only basis and may vary from term to term and be different for different sections. See the Class Schedule for the specific topic being offered. 3 hours supervision. (001445)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course more than once
Course Attributes: Lower Division

CHLD 222 Working with Children 1 Unit
Typically Offered: Fall only
This introductory course focuses on understanding children's social, emotional, cognitive, physical, and neurodevelopment and current evidence-based practices in working with children. Enrolled students engage in discussions with faculty and other professionals whose work focuses on children and families. Careers that involve children from infancy through young adulthood will be discussed. 1 hour lecture. (022534)
Grade Basis: Credit/No Credit
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 1 unit
Course Attributes: Lower Division

CHLD 251 Observational Techniques 3 Units
Prerequisite: CHLD 252 (may be taken concurrently).
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
This course includes acquisition and application of basic observation skills regarding children's physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development. 2 hours activity, 2 hours discussion. (001441)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Lower Division

CHLD 252 Child Development 3 Units GE, USD
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
A study of the physical, cognitive, social and emotional development of children from conception through adolescence. The course examines genetic, biological, and environmental influences including cross-cultural issues. Scheduled observations are included. 3 hours lecture. (001442)
General Education: Lifelong Learning and Self-Development (E)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Lower Division; US Diversity

CHLD 255 Marriage and Family Relationships 3 Units GE, USD
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
This is an introductory course to marriage and family, including psychological, physiological, and social aspects of close personal relationships. The class explores the social-historical construction of family and intimate relationships and the intersectionality of race, ethnicity, gender, social class and age that influence the pursuit and experience of romantic and family relationships, including parent-child relationships. Contemporary topics such as dating, courtship, marriage, family life, divorce practices, parenting practices, family economics, intimate partner violence, and sexuality are considered through a contextual lens and the impact of ethnicity, gender and social class on these topics is presented. 3 hours discussion. (001443)
General Education: Lifelong Learning and Self-Development (E)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Lower Division; US Diversity

CHLD 272 Children in a Changing World 3 Units GC, GE
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
To address the challenge of understanding development in its many contexts and manifestations, this course provides a global investigation of critical issues influencing the lives of children. This course focuses on familial and societal influences on children's development and explores how the concept of childhood is shaped by cultural and social practices and policies. 3 hours lecture. (021161)
General Education: Lifelong Learning and Self-Development (E)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Lower Division; Global Cultures

CHLD 282 Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum for Children: Theory to Practice 3 Units
Prerequisite: CHLD 251, CHLD 252.
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
This course examines the role of curriculum in effective learning programs for children's development. Students gain skills in applying knowledge of children's growth and development to appropriate experiences in the creative arts, play, math, science, literacy, and language. Planning, implementing, and evaluating curriculum activities are key components of the course. Students in the class work directly with children in an approved community program approximately 3 hours a week: 2 hours discussion, 3 hours independent study. (001447)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Lower Division

CHLD 299 Special Problems 1-3 Units
Prerequisite: Faculty permission.
Typically Offered: Inquire at department
You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. 0 hours supervision. (020592)
Grade Basis: Credit/No Credit
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 6 units
Course Attributes: Lower Division

CHLD 321 Risk and Resilience in Development 3 Units GE
Prerequisite: GE Oral Communication (A1); GE Written Communication (A2); GE Critical Thinking (A3); GE Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning (B4) requirements, or consent of the instructor.
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
The goal of this online course is to explore typical development related to healthy children with healthy relationships and to put that in the context of children with risk (i.e., adverse experiences) and children who overcome that risk (i.e., resilient). This understanding is viewed through the lens of neurobiology (e.g., regulation and dysregulation understood through brain functioning). Additionally, working with youth experiencing either adverse trauma or relational poverty is emphasized. 3 hours lecture. (021761)
General Education: Upper-Division Social Sciences (UDD); Health and Wellness Pathway
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division
CHLD 333W  Children's Gender and Sexuality Development  
(W)  
Prerequisite: Junior standing; GE Oral Communication (A1); GE Written Communication (A2); GE Critical Thinking (A3); GE Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning (B4) requirements, or consent of the instructor.  
Typically Offered: Fall and spring  
This topical course is designed for students who wish to develop a broader and deeper understanding of children's gender and sexuality development. Students study multiple theoretical explanations of gender and sexuality development, and learn how biological, social, cultural, and cognitive influences impact concepts of gender and sexuality. 3 hours lecture. (021356)  
General Education: Upper-Division Social Sciences (UDD); Gender and Sexuality Pathway  
Grade Basis: Graded  
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units  
Course Attributes: Upper Division; Writing Course  

CHLD 350  Prenatal-Infant Development: Advanced  
Prerequisite: CHLD 252 or PSYC 355.  
Typically Offered: Spring only  
This course studies characteristic developmental changes in and environmental influences on human infants from conception to approximately two years of age. Special emphasis is on sensory-perceptual abilities, social-emotional interactions, and cognitive developmental processes. Guided observations of infants required. 3 hours discussion. (001446)  
Grade Basis: Graded  
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units  
Course Attributes: Upper Division  

CHLD 351  Toddler-Early Childhood Development: Advanced  
Prerequisite: CHLD 252 or PSYC 355.  
Typically Offered: Fall and spring  
This course examines the physical, cognitive, emotional, and psychosocial aspects of growth during the stages of toddlerhood and early childhood (approximately ages 2 through 5), as well as contextual influences (e.g., family, group experiences, socioeconomic status, culture) on development of children of this age. 3 hours lecture. (021623)  
Grade Basis: Graded  
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units  
Course Attributes: Upper Division  

CHLD 353W  Methods of Inquiry in Child Development  
(W)  
Prerequisite: GE Written Communication (A2), GE Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning (B4), CHLD 251, CHLD 252, CHLD majors only.  
Typically Offered: Fall and spring  
Students learn the fundamentals of scientific methodology, increase their knowledge of qualitative research methods, and acquire quantitative skills in measurement and statistical evaluation. These skills are applied through reviewing, evaluating, and communicating research. Students also identify the major dimensions of research strategies used in child development and related fields. 2 hours activity, 2 hours seminar. (001448)  
Grade Basis: Graded  
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units  
Course Attributes: Upper Division; Writing Course; Graduation Writing Assessment  

CHLD 354  The School-Aged Child  
Prerequisite: CHLD 252 or PSYC 355.  
Typically Offered: Fall and spring  
This class examines the physical, cognitive, emotional, and psychosocial aspects of growth during the school-aged years (ages 5 through 12), as well as contextual influences (e.g., family, school, peer group) on children's development. Particular attention is paid to the implications of developmental patterns for those who work with school-aged children. 3 hours lecture. (001449)  
Grade Basis: Graded  
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units  
Course Attributes: Upper Division  

CHLD 357  Adolescent Development  
Prerequisite: CHLD 252 or PSYC 355.  
Typically Offered: Fall only  
This course provides a broad research and theory-based overview of physical, cognitive, emotional, social, moral, and identity development during adolescence. An ecological framework is used to examine the influence of sociocultural contexts, ethnicity, gender, family, peers, and school settings on adolescents experience and development. 3 hours discussion. (001461)  
Grade Basis: Graded  
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units  
Course Attributes: Upper Division  

CHLD 360  Social-Emotional Intelligence: Development and Learning  
Prerequisite: GE Oral Communication (A1); GE Written Communication (A2); GE Critical Thinking (A3); GE Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning (B4) requirements, or consent of the instructor.  
Typically Offered: Fall and spring  
The goal of this online course is to explore healthy social and emotional development including self-regulatory and interpersonal abilities, empathy development, prosocial behavior, and well-being across development periods from birth to young adulthood. Guided by interpersonal neurobiology (an interdisciplinary field that integrates attachment research and emerging findings from neuroscience) and interdisciplinary research on social emotional learning (SEL) programs, we explore the influence of primary relationships and contexts (family, peers, school, community) in shaping social-emotional competencies, emotional intelligence, and emotional learning across developmental periods. 3 hours lecture. (022089)  
General Education: Upper-Division Social Sciences (UDD); Health and Wellness Pathway  
Grade Basis: Graded  
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units  
Course Attributes: Upper Division  

CHLD 382  Professional Seminar in Child Development: Current Issues  
Prerequisite: CHLD 251, CHLD 252, CHLD 282, CHLD 353W, CHLD majors only.  
Corequisites: CHLD 392.  
Typically Offered: Fall and spring  
This course examines and appraises current and professional issues affecting the field of child development. Cultural and political influences on the practices of professionals in the field are explored and analyzed. 3 hours lecture. (020216)  
Grade Basis: Graded  
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units  
Course Attributes: Upper Division
Course Attributes: Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units

CHLD 398  Special Topics  1-3 Units
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
This course is for special topics offered for 1.0-3.0 units. Typically the topic is offered on a one-time-only basis and may vary from term to term and be different for different sections. See the Class Schedule for the specific topic being offered. 1 hour lecture. (001457)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course more than once
Course Attributes: Upper Division

CHLD 399  Special Problems  1-3 Units
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
This course is an independent study of special problems offered for 1.0-3.0 units. You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. 9 hours supervision. (001458)
Grade Basis: Credit/No Credit
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 6 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division

CHLD 440  Issues in Assessment for Children  3 Units
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
This course provides an overview of child assessment. The course offers the student both research-based theory and practical applications in these areas. Students apply the knowledge gained during class sessions and readings to relevant assigned projects and papers. 3 hours lecture. (001459)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division

CHLD 451  Working with Families in Diverse Communities: Advanced  3 Units USD
Prerequisite: CHLD 251, CHLD 252, junior standing.
Typically Offered: Spring only
Through discussion, presentations, and written assignments students understand the nature of child development in diverse family contexts. Students assess the psychosocial developmental stages/tasks of families, the critical importance of culture/ethnic traditions, values, and beliefs and how these all affect development. Students engage in active, experiential learning, synthesize theory and practice, and evaluate the impact of social, ethnic, gender, and class contexts on themselves and their work with children and families. 3 hours seminar. (001460)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division; US Diversity

CHLD 455  Seminar in Family Relations  3 Units
Prerequisite: CHLD 252 or CHLD 255 or PSYC 355, junior standing.
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
This course is an advanced study of the interpersonal relationships among family members. Topics of reading and discussion include theories and research on family structure and function, family crises, child raising patterns, family finances, and other related topics as per instructor choice. 3 hours discussion. (001462)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division

CHLD 456  Administration of Child Development Programs: Advanced  3 Units
Prerequisite: CHLD 251, CHLD 252, junior standing.
Typically Offered: Spring only odd years
This course focuses on the role of the program administrator in various types of licensed child development facilities. Topics include programming, fiscal oversight, licensing regulations, personnel decisions, legal issues, and management aspects of children’s programs. 3 hours seminar. (001463)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division

CHLD 462  Adult Supervision in Child Development Programs: Advanced  3 Units
Prerequisite: CHLD 251, CHLD 252, junior standing.
Typically Offered: Spring only even years
This course offers opportunities to gain skills and knowledge about supervising adults in the workplace. Topics include interpersonal communication techniques, adult learning theory, leadership skills, professional collaboration, and personnel assessment in the early childhood education field. 3 hours lecture. (001465)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division
CHLD 489 Internship in Child Development 1-6 Units
Prerequisite: Faculty permission.
Typically Offered: Inquire at department
This course is an internship offered for 1.0-6.0 units. You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. Provides direct experience in agencies, institutions, or work settings appropriate to the application of Child Development background and training. 9 hours supervision. (001466)
Grade Basis: Report in Progress: CR/NC
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 15 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division

CHLD 492 Child Development Practice: Children and Families 3 Units
Prerequisite: CHLD 382, CHLD 392, CHLD major only.
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
This course is a guided internship for majors in Child Development. Based on individually determined internship learning objectives, students select a community-based agency placement that matches their career interest in children from birth through emerging adulthood and/or their families. Students spend a minimum of 7.5 hours a week in their internship placement for 12 weeks. 4 hours activity, 3 hours independent study. (001467)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division

CHLD 495HW Senior Seminar in Child Development - Honors (W) 3 Units W
Prerequisite: CHLD 382, CHLD 392, CHLD majors only, acceptance in honors in the major program, department permission.
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
This capstone seminar integrates the perspectives of various disciplines concerned with the developing child. Its emphasis is on trauma-informed practices, physical, cognitive, personality, and social development of the child in relationship to the family, community, and society. From a research framework, the topics include program practices, professional ethics, collaboration, case management, effective communication, leadership styles, self evaluation, and professional responsibilities. Students also complete comprehensive portfolios as part of the course requirements. 3 hours seminar. (001469)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division; Writing Course

CHLD 495W Senior Seminar in Child Development (W) 3 Units W
Prerequisite: CHLD 382, CHLD 392, CHLD majors only.
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
This capstone seminar integrates the perspectives of various disciplines concerned with the developing child. Its emphasis is on trauma-informed practices, physical, cognitive, personality, and social development of the child in relationship to the family, community, and society. From a research framework, the topics include program practices, professional ethics, collaboration, case management, effective communication, leadership styles, self evaluation, and professional responsibilities. Students also complete comprehensive portfolios as part of the course requirements. 3 hours seminar. (001468)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division; Writing Course

CHLD 498 Special Topics 1-3 Units
Prerequisite: Department permission.
Typically Offered: Inquire at department
This course is for special topics offered for 1.0-3.0 units. Typically the topic is offered on a one-time-only basis and may vary from term to term and be different for different sections. See the Class Schedule for the specific topic being offered. 3 hours seminar. (001470)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course more than once
Course Attributes: Upper Division

CHLD 499 Special Problems 1-3 Units
Prerequisite: Department permission.
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
This course is an independent study of special problems offered for 1.0-3.0 units. Students must register directly with a supervising faculty member and receive department permission to enroll. 3 hours weekly supervision per unit. 9 hours supervision. (001471)
Grade Basis: Credit/No Credit
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 6 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division

CHLD 499H Honors Independent Study 3 Units
Prerequisite: CHLD majors only; acceptance in undergraduate honors program, department permission.
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
Independent study resulting in a piece of scholarly or creative work involving substantial research to be completed and publicly presented. This will be the first course taken in the year-long honors program in the major and is open only to undergraduate honors students. 9 hours independent study. (001472)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division

CHLD 689 Internship 1-6 Units
Typically Offered: Inquire at department
This course is an internship offered for 1.0-6.0 units. You must register with a supervising faculty member. 0 hours supervision. (021873)
Grade Basis: Credit/No Credit
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 6 units
Course Attributes: Graduate Division

CHLD 697 Independent Study 1-3 Units
Prerequisite: Faculty permission.
Typically Offered: Inquire at department
This course is for special topics offered for 1.0-3.0 units. You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. 0 hours supervision. (021851)
Grade Basis: Report in Progress: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 6 units
Course Attributes: Graduate Division

Child Development Department
The Faculty
Shrija R Dirghangi 2016
Associate Professor
Doctor of Philosophy Florida Atlantic Univ

Sara T Gordon 2024
Lecturer
Master of Science Texas Woman'S Univ

Shelley R Hart 2014
Professor
Doctor of Philosophy Univ Of Cal-Santa Barbara

Lisa D Jackson  2012
Lecturer
Master of Arts CSU-Chico

Theresa Manley  2006
Lecturer
Master of Education Univ Of New Hampshire At Manch

Lindsey M Nenadal  2019
Assistant Professor
Doctor of Philosophy Univ Of Cal-Los Angeles

Diana D Shepherd  2006
Professor
Doctor of Philosophy Utah St Univ

Valerie B Singleton  2011
Lecturer
Master of Arts Pacific Oaks College

Jennifer K Swisher  2015
Lecturer
Master of Social Work CSU-Chico

Cate H Szczechanski  2023
Lecturer
Master of Arts Pacific Oaks College

Gail E Walton  2007
Chair
Doctor of Philosophy Univ Of Texas At Dallas

YeoJoo Yoon  2022
Assistant Professor
Master of Education Univ Of Texas At Austin

Emeritus Faculty
Bradley B Glanville  1977
Emeritus
Doctor of Philosophy Michigan St Univ

Carol A Marshall
Emeritus
Master of Arts CSU-Chico

Cynthia S Ratekin
Emeritus
Doctor of Philosophy Univ Of Cal-Los Angeles