

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Child Development Department (<http://www.csuchico.edu/chld/>)
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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

- Child Development BA (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/college-behavioral-social-sciences/child-development/child-development-ba/>)

Minors

- Child Development Minor (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/college-behavioral-social-sciences/child-development/child-development-minor/>)

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 189 Intro Children's Center

1-2 Units

Typically Offered: Inquire at department

2 hours lecture. (001444)

Grade Basis: Graded

Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 15 units

Course Attributes: Lower Division

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 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, CHLD majors only.**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)****3 Units GE, USD, 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; US Diversity; Writing Course

CHLD 350 Prenatal-Infant Development: Advanced 3 Units 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 357 Adolescent Development 3 Units 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 adolescent 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 351 Toddler-Early Childhood Development: Advanced 3 Units Prerequisite: CHLD 252 or PSYC 355. Typically Offered: Fall only 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 for 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 360 Social-Emotional Intelligence: Development and Learning 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 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 353W Methods of Inquiry in Child Development (W) 3 Units W, GW Prerequisite: GE Written Communication (A2) requirement, GE Quantitative Reasoning (A4), 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 382 Professional Seminar in Child Development: Current Issues 3 Units 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
CHLD 354 The School-Aged Child 3 Units 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 389 Internship in Child Dev 1-3 Units Typically Offered: Fall and spring 3 hours lecture. (001454) Grade Basis: Graded Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 15 units Course Attributes: Upper Division

CHLD 392 Child Development Practicum: Advanced 4 Units

Prerequisite: CHLD 251, CHLD 252, CHLD 282, CHLD 353W, CHLD majors only.

Corequisites: CHLD 382.

Typically Offered: Fall and spring

This course is a supervised practicum. Students plan and implement a developmentally effective program for children, assess children's developmental progress, and evaluate their own effectiveness and professional development in a leadership role. An emphasis on families and programs is included. Enrollment is limited. 3 hours activity, 1 hour independent study. (001455)

Grade Basis: Graded

Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 4 units

Course Attributes: Upper Division

CHLD 398 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. 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

Prerequisite: Faculty permission.

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

Prerequisite: CHLD 251, CHLD 252, CHLD 282, CHLD 353W, junior standing, CHLD majors only.

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 a graduate-level independent study 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

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 Szczepanski 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