



Child Development & Family Relationships, B.A.

The Child Development & Family Relationships major prepares students to support the optimal development and wellbeing of children and their families. Taking inclusive, multigenerational, relational, and lifespan approaches, students incorporate multilogical thinking and trauma informed care/practices in their work. Students embrace the importance of contexts and culture in development, learning, and relationships. Additionally, students work with their academic advisors to create individualized programs that support their interests and professional development and provide a strong foundation for continued education.

Experience Your Learning

Through practicums, service learning, policy analysis, and internships, students apply the course content in the field.

The Child Development Lab provides high quality hands-on learning experiences to students as they teach preschool aged children and collaborate with their peers. Students apply developmental knowledge into practice and engage in reflective teaching with constructive feedback and guidance from faculty supervisors and teachers.

Our faculty stay abreast of the most recent research related to the field of Child Development. Research projects, which involve students, are conducted by individual faculty members, as well as by the department as a whole.

Child Development majors work side by side with faculty, as peer mentors and Assistant Head Teachers at the Child Development Lab, by providing feedback and supporting students in specific classes.

Students have opportunities to work in the community, gaining valuable professional experience. The Directed Field Experience course is supervised community fieldwork that integrates theory into practice.

Did you know?

- Our faculty partner with local tribes and organizations to provide professional development, consultation, and early college learning experiences.
- The Child Development Lab founded in 1968 by Dr. Emilia Tschanz, will be relocated to a newly remodeled Trinity Annex in Fall 2023, serving multiple generations of families.
- Several of our students are athletes, parents, and volunteers/leaders in the Youth Educational Services program. Many of our alumni work as professionals in the community and provide mentorship and networking to current students through experiential learning or visiting our professional development class.



Academics & Options

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Academics & Options

The versatile Bachelor of Arts program is uniquely designed to provide flexibility for both transfer and non-transfer students.

In addition to the general education requirements, students must complete the 34 units of major core and 24-25 units of elective classes to fulfill one of the three concentrations: (a) Teaching, (b) Child & Family Services, and (c) Specialized Studies.

Program Concentrations

Teaching

Students further select from the three options: 1) Early Childhood Education, 2) Elementary Education, or 3) Special Education/Early Intervention). Graduates apply for a 5th year credential in Elementary Education or Special Education to be able to work in public schools. There are specific electives that are used for each teaching concentration.

Child & Family Services

Suitable for students who want to go to the field of School Psychology, Counseling, Recreation, Language Studies, Program Administration, Social Work, American Indian Education, Technology, or Diversity. Students plan their coursework and experiences in consultation with their academic advisor.

Specialized Studies

Suitable for students with many transfer units, interested in other minors (e.g., Dance, Art, History, Math) OR specialized fields of study post-graduation (for example, Speech & Language Pathology; American Indian Education; Child Life Specialist; Pediatric Nursing). Students plan their coursework and experiences in consultation with their academic advisor.

Minors

- American Indian Education
- American Sign Language & Special Populations
- Early Childhood Development
- Family Studies

Even though students take most of the classes designed for the Early Childhood Development minor, this minor is specifically designed for non-Child Development majors.

Careers

The Child Development and Family Relationships program offers versatility in post graduation careers, such as

- Teaching in public or private schools or for profit programs
- Public policy analysis, research, and advocacy for children and families
- Families and children or intervention services (Parent/Family Life Education, Early Head Start, Family Resource Specialist, Family Preservation, Juvenile Justice, etc.)
- Community mental health, DHHS, ACES and Resilience careers, community development
- Recreation leadership (e.g., Parks and Recs., summer camps, etc.)
- Case manager, paraprofessional in education, home visitor, Infant Early Childhood Mental Health practitioner, after school program coordinator



The department has built a strong foundational understanding of children's development in contexts of families and communities. I appreciate the lectures, the research, and advocacy experiences during my undergraduate education and the passion that my professors and peers have made me the professional I am today: an advocate for children and families."

Elizabeth Osuna ('20, Child Development/Elementary Education), Early Childhood Teacher