

Graduate Certificate in Lifespan Development

Developmental psychology and lifespan developmental studies include the scientific study of psychological changes that occur over the life course. Therefore, developmental studies are inherently interested in many of the same questions of other areas of psychology, education, family studies, etc., but by investigating the ways in which particular psychological processes change and develop from infancy to adolescence, and through to adulthood. The purpose of the graduate certificate in lifespan development is to provide students in other areas of psychological study, or human behavior broadly defined, a better understanding of the ways in which psychological functions change with age, as well as the challenges and special considerations that are a part of research with children and adolescents and how they may be different from those of working with adults.

Requirements

The requirements for acceptance and completion of work for the certificate are as follows:

- The student must be enrolled and in good standing in an on-campus doctoral-level program at MU (available to degree-seeking students only).
- A request to be included in the certificate program must be made in advance of final completion of courses to the certificate coordinator, (contact information below).
- A formal plan of study must be submitted to the Graduate School no later than the *semester prior to graduation*. This must be signed by the certificate coordinator and the director of graduate studies of the student's major department.
- Students must complete a minimum of 15 credit hours to be awarded the certificate, following the below guidelines:

Core Courses (9 credit hours): students are required to take one of two 3-course sequences.

PSYCH 8410 & PSYCH 8420 & PSYCH 8440	Psychology of Development and Cognitive Development and Social and Emotional Development	9
or H_D_FS 8410 & H_D_FS 8450 & H_D_FS 7252	Infancy and Childhood and Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood and Adult Development	

Electives* 6

(6 credit hours): students must complete 6 additional credit hours in developmental studies through several possible options or combinations of these options.

PSYCH 9470	Women's Professional Development	3
PSYCH 8410	Psychology of Development	3
PSYCH 8420	Cognitive Development	3
PSYCH 8440	Social and Emotional Development	3
PSYCH 8510	Developmental Psychopathology	3
PSYCH 9440	Studies in Developmental Psychology	1-99
PSYCH 8050	Research in Psychology - Non-Thesis	1-99
PSYCH 9050	Research in Psychology - Non-Dissertation	1-99
H_D_FS 7300	Black Families	

H_D_FS 8001	Topics in Human Development and Family Science	1-6
H_D_FS 7640	Interpersonal Relationships	3
H_D_FS 8640	Family Interaction	3
H_D_FS 8087	Seminar in Human Development and Family Science	1-6
H_D_FS 8410	Infancy and Childhood	3
H_D_FS 8450	Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood	3
H_D_FS 7252	Adult Development	3
H_D_FS 8770	Poverty	3
H_D_FS 8085	Problems in Human Development and Family Science	1-99
H_D_FS 9210	Research Practicum in Human Development and Family Science	2-6
H_D_FS 8090	Research in Human Development and Family Science	1-99

Additional electives could include approved related courses in other departments: some other departments on campus offer graduate-level courses which are related to the study of lifespan development. Examples include courses taught Communication (Interpersonal Area), Educational, School and Counseling Psychology, Social Work, Special Education, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences, etc. In order to ensure that a will count as an appropriate elective, please obtain permission prior to taking the course.

Need for Certificate Program

For students within the child clinical psychology Ph.D. program of study there is a need for some students to gain greater exposure to developmental studies. Currently, the department of Psychological Sciences offers a dual child clinical and developmental psychology degree program. This program is extremely rigorous, however, and students and faculty within the Department of Psychological Sciences have identified a need for more in-depth study in developmental science without the commitment of a second degree. In creating the certificate program, however, it was determined that graduate students in other related fields may also wish to pursue further study in lifespan development. In particular, students in education, social work, communication science and disorders, and additional areas within psychology may benefit from greater understanding of developmental processes which could be gained through the required and elective course work outlined in this certificate program.

Impact on Current Programs of Study

The impact to current programs of study is expected to be relatively minimal other than the inclusion of potentially a few more students enrolled in the aforementioned classes.

Advisory Committee Members

Debi Bell, Psychological Sciences
Nicole Campione-Barr, Psychological Sciences
Ashley Groh, Psychological Sciences
Sarah Killoren, Human Development & Family Science
Ashlie Lester, Human Development & Family Science

Participating/Affiliated Faculty - Various faculty from the following departments

Psychological Sciences
Human Development and Family Studies
Communication Science and Disorders

Educational, School, and Counseling Psychology
Special Education
Social Work

Contact

When needed, advising will be provided to students by lifespan development certificate coordinator (Nicole Campione-Barr), in conjunction with the student's major advisor.

Dr. Nicole Campione-Barr, Coordinator
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