

# Psychology (B.A.)

## Child Development Track

This document has been created for advising purposes only. Please contact the department for major and/or graduation requirements.

Prepared April 2010



### Potential Job Titles

- Developmental Psychologist (MA, PhD, PsyD)
- Child Psychologist (MA, PhD, PsyD)
- Early Intervention Specialist (BA, MA)
- Child Care Activity Specialist (BA)
- School Counselor (MA)
- Case Worker (BA)
- Child Life Specialist (MA:CCLS)
- Speech Therapist (MA: CCC-SLP)

### Potential Graduate Programs

- Child Clinical Psychology (MA, PhD, PsyD)
- Developmental Psychology (MA, Ph.D.)
- Child Life Specialist (MA:CCC-SLP)

### Contact Information:

Department of Psychology  
200 Porter Hall  
Athens, OH 45701  
740-593-1707

psychology@ohiou.edu  
www.psych.ohiou.edu/

Assistant Chair for Undergraduate Studies in Psychology:  
Susan Tice-Alicke, PhD  
261 Porter Hall  
Athens, OH  
740-597-2718  
tices@ohiou.edu



## What is Developmental Psychology?

Developmental psychology is a sub-field of psychology that focuses on the biological, cognitive, and social development of an individual throughout the lifespan. Some developmental psychologists may specialize in infant or child development, while others may focus their interest on the development of adolescents or adults.

Child psychologists conduct research and provide psychological services to infants, toddlers, children, and adolescents.

Child psychology places emphasis on diagnosing and treating children's psychological problems. Child psychologists also focus on the understanding and prevention of children's cognitive, emotional, behavioral, and/or family problems.

Child psychologists may also work in support or supervision of social workers in a clinical setting.

For employment as a licensed child clinical or counseling psychologist an advanced degree is required. Psychologists with PhDs are qualified for a wide range of positions, such as teaching, research, clinical, and counseling in universities, elementary and



secondary schools, private industry and government. Potential career directions for individuals prepared in child psychology include early childhood intervention, juvenile rehabilitation, and speech therapy.

The purpose of this program is to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of psychology while preparing students for advanced training that is required to practice as a child psychologist, child life specialist, or speech therapist.

## Additional Resources

To become more involved in child psychology or learn about the profession, here is what you can do.

- 1 Visit the websites of professional organizations, such as Division 7 (Developmental Psychology), Division 37 (Child, Youth, and Family Services), or Division 53 (Clinical Child Psychology) of the American Psychological Association, [www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org)
- 2 Read professional journals, such as Child Development, Developmental Psychology, and Journal of Research in Childhood Education.
- 3 Schedule a meeting with a child clinical psychologist or a developmental psychologist to discuss their profession.
- 4 Obtain an internship or volunteer in agencies serving children.

If you are interested in pursuing a career in developmental psychology be sure to work with an advisor to develop an academic plan that is tailored to your interests. Your plan should lead to the completion of coursework that is useful for employment in an entry-level job working with children or admission to a graduate program in child clinical or developmental psychology.

## University and College Requirements

In addition to the requirements for the child development track, which are listed below, be sure to complete all other university and college requirements, including the foreign language requirement.

If you are planning to start college-level foreign language with a course beyond 111, you are advised to begin foreign language in your first year. If you are starting foreign language with 111, begin language courses no later than the junior year.

## Required Courses in Psychology

<b>PSY 101</b>	<b>General Psychology (5)</b>	PSY 307	Psycholinguistics (4)	<b>PSY 351</b>	<b>Intro to Clin &amp; Couns (4)</b>
<b>PSY 221</b>	<b>Statistics for Beh Sciences (5)</b>	PSY 308	Human Judgment (4)	PSY 430	Psychoactive Drugs (4)
<b>PSY 226</b>	<b>Research Methods (4)</b>				
<b>PSY 321</b>	<b>Advanced Statistics (5)</b>				
	Biological—at least one of the following:		Developmental—at least two of the following:		Social/Organizational—at least two of the following:
	PSY 201 Sensation & Perception (4)	<b>PSY 273</b>	<b>Child &amp; Adolescent (4)</b>	PSY 261	Industrial and Org (4)
	PSY 203 Learning (4)	PSY 315	Behavior Genetics (5)	PSY 310	Motivation (4)
<b>PSY 312</b>	<b>Physiological Psy (4)</b>	PSY 374	Adulthood & Aging (4)	PSY 336	<i>Social Psychology (4)</i>
PSY 314	Comparative Psych (5)	<b>PSY 376</b>	<b>Disorders of Childhood (4)</b>	PSY 337	Social Psych of Justice (4)
PSY 327	Human Psychophys (4)	PSY 378	<i>Psychology of Gender (4)</i>	PSY 361	Adv Org Psychology (4)
PSY 380	Psy of Health & Illness (4)	PSY 470	Prenatal Infl on Dev (4)	PSY 362	Personnel Psychology (4)
	Cognitive—at least one of the following:		Clinical—at least two of the following:		
<b>PSY 304</b>	<b>Learning &amp; Cog Proc (4)</b>	PSY 233	<i>Psych of Personality (4)</i>		<b>Note:</b> Courses in <b>bold</b> are required for the child development track and courses in <i>italics</i> are recommended.
PSY 305	Human Memory (4)	PSY 332	<i>Abnormal Psych (4)</i>		
		<b>PSY 341</b>	<b>Tests &amp; Measurements (4)</b>		

## Fieldwork and Research in Psychology

PSY 489 (1-5, 5 max)—Credit for volunteer work in a mental health or health care setting.

PSY 390 (1-5, 15 max)—Credit for participating in research under the supervision of a faculty member.

## Extra-Departmental Required Courses

Psychology majors in the child development track must complete three courses in ONE of the following natural science areas: Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Environmental and Plant Biology, Geography, Geology, or Physics.

Courses that fulfill this requirement are listed under the Natural Sciences Area Requirement in the College of Arts and Sciences section of the catalog. The three courses that you choose must have the same departmental prefix, with the following exception: BIOL 101 may be combined with either

The following courses are required of students in the child development track:

SW 102	Intro to Social Work (4)
SW 380	Child Abuse and Neglect (4)
HSL 108	Intro to Communication Disorders (4)
HSL 310	Language Development (4)

## Additional Recommended Courses

PSY 275	Educational Psychology (4)
HCCF 170	Intro to Early Childhood Education (3)
HCCF 265	Infant and Toddler Development (3)
HCCF 298	Introduction to Child Life (3)
HCCF 371	Family and Life Span Development (3)
HCCF 476	Children & Families in Health Care Settings (4)
SW 451A, B	Child Welfare (6)

**Note:** Be sure to check prerequisites for coursework.

*Students in the child development track are encouraged to complete the three courses in Biological Sciences*