Child development is an interdisciplinary area of study. The Master of Science degree, administered by the faculty from the Department of Child and Family Development, draws on the expertise of a multidisciplinary faculty who are committed to the study of children within the context of diverse families and communities. The focus of the department is on the study of social emotional development as the underlying foundation for all other areas of development including physical, cognitive, motor and language. The program represents an interdisciplinary field of study with a basic assumption that development takes place across the lifespan in the context of the family, community, and public policy. The department's emphasis on primary prevention prepares students with hands-on experiences through community-based learning.

The focus of the program is on the early years and prevention with an emphasis on parent-child intergenerational relationships to enhance school readiness and preparation of teachers to work with families with a focus on socio-emotional and behavior support in educational settings and homes. Faculty areas of study include attachment, socio-emotional development and school readiness, continuity of care, child abuse and relationship violence, intergenerational relationships, and parent education and involvement in education. Faculty work in collaboration with community agencies and programs and are to include but are not limited to: SDSU Children’s Center, Head Start, First 5, San Diego Unified School District, San Diego County Office of Education, San Diego County Health and Human Services—Office of Violence Prevention, San Diego County Health and Human Services Child and Adolescent Services, Children Mental Health Services, YMCA, Exceptional Family Resource Center, Home Start, among others. Students can choose a research project or thesis. In addition to the thesis, there are projects on agencies and programs in the community. Students will have the opportunity to develop projects in the community and implement best practices of continuity of care, intergenerational programs, etc.

Graduates with the Master of Science (but without the certificate), and graduates with the certificate qualify for administrator, coordinator, or service provider positions in preschools, day care centers, schools, hospitals, hospice centers, public welfare agencies, family service agencies, family planning clinics, community programs, business and industry, and government agencies. Graduates with the EC-SEBRIS certificate also qualify for positions related to early childhood mental health and behavioral health. Graduates from the Master of Science program also qualify as community college instructors and can continue their education for the doctoral degree in human development or a related field.

1 In collaboration with the Grossmont-Cuyamaca District strategies for competency-based curricula across all levels of child development programs throughout the State are being designed.

Admission to Graduate Study

Students will be admitted to the graduate program in child development only after careful consideration of their qualification by the child development faculty. All students must satisfy the general requirements for admission to the university with graduate standing as described in Part Two of this bulletin. Students who do not fully meet the requirements for admission with classified graduate standing may be considered for conditionally classified graduate standing upon recommendation of the admissions committee and the graduate adviser. In addition, a student applying for admission to the graduate program in child development, including those who hold the EC-SEBRIS certificate, must meet the following graduate admission requirements.

To qualify for admission to the master’s program in child development, the student must have:

1. A bachelor’s degree in child development or related fields or consent of the Child Development Faculty Governing Board.
2. Completion of prerequisites for the program of study. If students' undergraduate preparation is deemed insufficient, students will be required to complete specified courses (Child and Family Development 375A, 375B, 375C, and two units from Child and Family Development 378A, 378B, 378C, 378D) in addition to the minimum 31-32 units required for the master's degree in child development.
3. A grade point average of 3.0 in the last 60 semester units attempted.
4. Completion of the GRE General Test.
5. Completion of program application form.

Students applying for admission should electronically submit the university application available at http://www.csumentor.edu along with the $55 application fee.

All applicants must submit corresponding admissions materials separately to SDSU Graduate Admissions and to the Department of Child and Family Development.

Graduate Admissions

The following materials should be mailed or delivered directly to:

Graduate Admissions
Enrollment Services
San Diego State University
San Diego, CA 92182-7416

(1) Official transcripts (in sealed envelopes) from all postsecondary institutions attended;

Note:
• Students who attended SDSU need only submit transcripts for work completed since last attendance.
• Students with international coursework must submit both the official transcript and proof of degree. If documents are in a language other than English, they must be accompanied by a certified English translation.
• Students with international coursework must submit an evaluation report to be considered for admission. Evaluation reports must be detailed, course-by-course evaluations with equivalent US credits and grades. Once completed, the detailed evaluation report should be sent directly to the Graduate Admissions office. SDSU recommends the following evaluation services:

Course-by-Course Evaluation Report
Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc.
P.O. Box 514070
Milwaukee, WI 53203-3470
414-289-3400

Detail Evaluation Report
International Education Research Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 3665
Culver City, CA 90231
310-258-9451

(2) GRE scores (http://www.ets.org, SDSU institution code 4682);
(3) English language score, if medium of instruction was in a language other than English (http://www.ets.org, SDSU institution code 4682).

Department of Child and Family Development

The following materials should be mailed or delivered directly to:

Department of Child and Family Development
Attention: Dr. Shulamit N. Riblatt, Graduate Adviser
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182-4502

(1) Applicant's letter of intent which includes reason for seeking the degree and career goals;
(2) Three letters of recommendation, one of which must be from an academic reference and another from an occupational reference;
(3) A resume;
(4) A written personal statement by the applicant discussing background, interests, work experiences, abilities, and career goals as they apply to the applicant's desire for a graduate degree in child development;
(5) Completion of a telephone or in person interview conducted by one or more members of the child development faculty.

Advancement to Candidacy

All students must satisfy the general requirements for advancement to candidacy, as described in Part Four of this bulletin, have identified a thesis adviser if they are in Plan A or if they have been approved to follow Plan B, and taken Child and Family Development 790 with a grade of B or better (the last requirement does not apply to students who have completed the Early Childhood-Socio-Emotional and Behavior Regulation Intervention Specialist (EC-SEBRIS) certificate).

Specific Requirements for the Master of Science Degree in Child Development

(Major Code: 08231) (SIMS Code: 330909)

In addition to meeting the requirements for classified graduate standing and the basic requirements for the master's degree as described in Part Four of this bulletin, students must complete a graduate program of 31-32 units, to include at least 22 units of 600- and 700-numbered courses.

Students pursuing only the Master of Science degree in child development must complete:

1. A core sequence of five courses to include Child and Family Development 634, 660 (four units required), 670, 790, and Education 690 (16 units).
2. A three unit graduate course selected in conjunction with the program adviser.
3. Nine units of any 500-level child and family development courses. (Graduate students who are alumni of the child and development program and received their Bachelor of Science degree in child development from San Diego State University, will complete the child and family development 500-level classes they did not take as part of their undergraduate program, and will select the remaining classes (to complete nine units) from other programs with the approval of the graduate adviser.)

NOTE: Students who have completed or are concurrently pursuing the EC-SEBRIS certificate will have earned 18 units towards the Master of Science in child development and need to complete 14 additional units: Child and Family Development 634, 660 (1 unit per semester for total of 2 units), Education 690, Child and Family Development 790, and 799A (Plan A or Plan B).

Early Childhood-Socio-Emotional and Behavior Regulation Intervention Specialist (EC-SEBRIS) Certificate

(Major Code: 90304) (SIMS Code: 330300)

The certificate program in Early Childhood-Socio-Emotional and Behavior Regulation Intervention Specialist (EC-SEBRIS) is an interdisciplinary program focusing on professional preparation and skills enhancement of early childhood educators who work with young children who demonstrate socio-emotional and behavioral problems and their parents.
Eighteen program units are required to earn the certificate in Early Childhood-Socio-Emotional and Behavior Regulation Intervention Specialist (EC-SEBRIS). Twelve units of seminar courses addressing core knowledge foundations and six units of practicum/field experience. Courses in the certificate program may be applied to the master’s degree in child development if applicable.

Prerequisites for admission:
1. Successful completion of a bachelor’s degree in a field related to child development, psychology, social work, human development, school counseling, or social services from an accredited institution, and relevant work experience in the early childhood education field.
2. Successful completion of the application and interview process.
3. Coursework relating to: early years of development, parenting, family functioning and parent-child relationships, children with special needs, and theories in socio-emotional development. If students’ undergraduate preparation is deemed insufficient, students will be required to complete specified courses as determined by the certificate program’s adviser.
4. Recommendation of employer and/or director of certificate program.

Course requirements (18 units). The EC-SEBRIS certificate is modeled following the Delivery of Infant-Family and Early Mental Health Services Revised Training Guidelines and Personnel Competencies proposed by the California’s Infant, Preschool and Family Mental Health Initiative (Workforce 2010). It includes two main areas: knowledge and experience. The knowledge base is comprised of four foundation classes. Two practicum classes that include clinical experience/supervision in early childhood setting and programs accompanied by Reflective Practice Facilitation (total of 500 hours of supervised practicum).

Students must complete the course requirements with a minimum of 3.0 (B) grade point average.

Knowledge Area (12 units):
- CFD 670 Seminar in Child Development Theories – Intervention and Prevention (3)
- CFD 671 Seminar in Human Development: Positive Behavior Support for Young Children with Challenging Behavior (3)
- CSP 623 Ecobehavioral Assessment – Intervention (3)
- SPED 676 Advanced Applied Behavior Analysis (3)

Experience Area – Field Experience/Practicum (6 units):
- CFD 697 Advanced Field Experiences Cr/NC (3 units each semester; 500 hours of supervised practicum to include 50 hours of group supervision, 30 hours of one-on-one, and 6 to 10 hours of on-site coaching)

For further information, contact the program adviser, Dr. Shulamit N. Ritblatt.

Courses Acceptable on Master’s Degree Program in Child Development (CFD)

CFD 536, Divorce and Remarriage (3)
Prerequisites: Child and Family Development 335 and Sociology 101.
Proof of completion of prerequisites required: Copy of transcript.
Integration of family theories and research findings. Emphasis on adjustment to divorce and remarriage throughout life cycles, across cultures, social classes, and ethnicities.

CFD 537, Child Abuse and Family Violence (3)
Prerequisites: Child and Family Development 375A, 375B, 375C, and two units from Child and Family Development 378A, 378B, 378C, 378D.
Proof of completion of prerequisites required: Copy of transcript.
Multidisciplinary approach to child abuse and family violence including maltreatment, mistreatment, neglect, sexual abuse.

CFD 560, Theories in Socio-Emotional Development (3)
Prerequisites: Child and Family Development 375A, 375B, 375C, 475, and two units from Child and Family Development 378A, 378B, 378C, 378D.
Proof of completion of prerequisites required: Copy of transcript.
Socio-emotional development from infancy to adulthood. Theory of mind, emotional intelligence, and relationship-based development.

CFD 565, Best Practices of Care for Infants/Toddlers (3)
Prerequisites: Consent of instructor and completion of all lower division preparation for the major courses with a grade of C (2.0) or better.
Proof of completion of prerequisites required: Copy of transcript.
Best practices of care for infants and toddlers to include respectful, attentive physical care, its basic principles and the practical components of best practices of care for young children. Design environments of care that ensure safety and optimum growth and development in collaboration with families via meaningful connections between child care and child’s home and culture.

CFD 575, Public Policy and Professional Ethics in Child and Family Development (3)
Prerequisites: Child and Family Development 375A, 375B, 375C, two units from Child and Family Development 378A, 378B, 378C, 378D, and Child and Family Development 536 or 537 or 590.
Proof of completion of prerequisites required: Copy of transcript.
Ethical guidelines and other standards related to child and family development. Informed advocates for equitable educational practices and policies.

CFD 577, Professionalism and Advanced Administration of Child Development Programs (3)
Prerequisite: Child and Family Development 477.
Proof of completion of prerequisite required: Copy of transcript.
Problem analysis and development of successful organizational strategies for child development program delivery. Leadership, effective communication, social and ethical issues from a multicultural perspective.

CFD 578, Conflict Resolution Across the Life Span (4)
Three lectures and three hours of laboratory.
Prerequisites: Child and Family Development 335, 370, 375A, 375B, 375C, 475, two units from Child and Family Development 378A, 378B, 378C, 378D, and Child and Family Development 537 and 560 with an overall grade of C (2.0) or better.
Proof of completion of prerequisites required: Copy of transcript.
Theories of conflict development and resolution across lifespan. Parenting styles, discipline, behavior and class management, and conflict resolution techniques used in relationships. Directed experiences using conflict resolution techniques in various settings.

CFD 590, Children with Special Needs (4)
Three lectures and three hours of laboratory.
Prerequisites: Child and Family Development 270 or Psychology 230, Child and Family Development 353A, 353B, 353C, and completion of 12 upper division units in child and family development with a grade of C (2.0) or better for majors; consent of instructor for graduate students.
Proof of completion of prerequisites required: Copy of transcript.
Adaptive and maladaptive processes throughout life span with emphasis on etiology, development, and adjustment of emotional, psychological, and physical disorders. Directed experience with special needs individuals and their families with focus on inclusion.
CFD 596. Advanced Studies in Child and Family Development (1-6)
Prerequisite: Nine upper division units in child and family development.
Advanced study of selected topics. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor’s degree. Maximum credit of nine units of 596. No more than six units of 596 may be applied to a bachelor’s degree. Credit for 596 and 696 applicable to a master’s degree with approval of the graduate adviser.

CFD 597. Field Experience in Child and Family Development Programs (3) Cr/NC
Prerequisites: Completion of five child and family development 500-level courses with a grade of C (2.0) or better in each course.
Proof of completion of prerequisites required: Copy of transcript.
Work experience in child and family development. Application of theoretical and evidence-base information with reflective supervision from faculty and field supervisor. Development of professional identity and career goals.

CFD 598. Reflective Learning Portfolio (1) Cr/NC
Two hours of activity.
Prerequisite: Senior standing. Limited to child development majors. Major code: 08231.
Capstone course to mentor child development majors to integrate knowledge acquired throughout child and family development program. Create portfolio and reflective essay.

GRADUATE COURSES

CFD 634. Seminar in Family Processes (3)
Prerequisite: Child and Family Development 335.
Analysis of selected research in family structure, development, and crisis.

CFD 660. Seminar in Current Issues and Trends in Child Development (1) Cr/NC
Prerequisite: Consent of graduate adviser.
Current issues and trends in research and policy making in child development field; career development and opportunities. Maximum credit four units.

CFD 670. Seminar in Child Development Theories-Intervention and Prevention (3)
Prerequisite: Six upper division units in child and family development.
Advanced child development theories. Emphasis on intervention and prevention models, theories, research, and applications.

CFD 671. Seminar in Human Development (3)
Prerequisite: Six upper division units in child and family development.
Analysis of selected research in human development. May be repeated with new content for maximum credit six units.

CFD 697. Advanced Field Experiences (3) Cr/NC
Prerequisite: Child and Family Development 670 or 671.
Advanced application of human developmental theories and techniques in various community settings. Maximum credit six units.

CFD 790. Research Methods and Program Development (3)
Prerequisite: Approval of graduate program adviser.
Research in child and family development: criteria and procedures for conducting research. Development of programs pertaining to children and families; literature review, proposal development, planning steps for implementation.

CFD 798. Special Study (1-3) Cr/NC/RP
Prerequisites: Consent of staff; to be arranged with the chair and instructor and approval of graduate program adviser.
Individual study. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master’s degree.

CFD 799A. Thesis (3) Cr/NC/RP
Prerequisites: An officially appointed thesis committee and advancement to candidacy.
Preparation of a thesis or project for the master’s degree.

CFD 799B. Thesis Extension (0) Cr/NC
Prerequisite: Prior registration in Thesis 799A with an assigned grade symbol of RP.
Registration required in any semester or term following assignment of RP in Course 799A in which the student expects to use the facilities and resources of the university, also student must be registered in the course when the completed thesis is granted final approval.

CFD 799C. Comprehensive Examination Extension (0) Cr/NC
Prerequisite: Completion or concurrent enrollment in degree program courses.
Registration required of students whose only requirement is completion of the comprehensive examination for the master’s degree. Registration in 799C limited to two semesters.