The interdisciplinary major in child development draws from many fields of study, including biology, psychology, and sociology, and prepares students for a variety of professional specialties. Graduates with competencies in this major find positions in preschools, child care centers, schools, hospitals, clinics, residential institutions, counseling centers, mental health centers, social services and public welfare agencies, family service agencies, family planning clinics, community programs, business and industry, and government agencies.

Field experience programs offer students supervised work in community agencies, children's programs, the SDSU Children's Center, and San Diego City Schools. All children's programs are mainstreamed and a wide range of special needs and at-risk populations are served. The child development degree also provides a flexible curriculum base for continuation into graduate programs in child development, family studies, or early childhood mental health. Majors may also continue graduate work in related fields such as marriage and family therapy; speech, occupational and physical therapy; social work; psychology; law; or sociology. Also available are programs leading to the multiple subject and single subject teaching credentials, the community college teaching credential, and a specialist credential in either special education or early childhood education.

The child development minor is an important adjunct for students in areas such as anthropology, education, nursing, psychology, recreation, social work, and sociology.

Impact Program

The child development major is an impacted program. To be admitted to the child development major, students must meet the following criteria:

a. Complete with a grade of C or higher: Child and Family Development 135, 270, 270L (1 unit), 272, 275; Biology 100; Psychology 101; Sociology 101; and Psychology 280, or Sociology 201, or a three unit elementary statistics course. These prerequisite courses may not be taken Cr/NC. The minimum grade in each class is C or higher.

b. Complete a minimum of 55 baccalaureate level semester units (a minimum of 60 units are required for all transfer applicants).

c. Have a cumulative GPA of 2.40 or higher.

To complete the major, students must fulfill the degree requirements for the major described in the catalog in effect at the time they are accepted into the premajor at SDSU (assuming continuous enrollment).

Standards for Admission

Special Instructions

1. Background Check. Child and Family Development premajors and transfer students must successfully pass a background check in order to be placed in educational and community settings. Red flag issues which prevent placement may impede progression and successful completion of degree requirements.

2. Tuberculin Clearance. Evidence of a negative tuberculinosis test must be provided periodically for community-based classes. Clearance statements may be secured from SDSU Health Services, private physicians or HMOs, or public health agencies.

Major Academic Plans (MAPs)

Visit http://www.sdsu.edu/mymap for the recommended courses needed to fulfill your major requirements. The MAPs Web site was created to help students navigate the course requirements for their majors and to identify which General Education course will also fulfill a major preparation course requirement.

Child Development Major

With the B.S. Degree in Applied Arts and Sciences
(Major Code: 08231) (SIMS Code: 330909)

All candidates for a degree in applied arts and sciences must complete the graduation requirements listed in the section of this catalog on “Graduation Requirements.”

A minor is not required with this major.

Preparation for the Major. Child and Family Development 135, 270, 270L (1 unit), 272, 275; Biology 100; Psychology 101; Sociology 101; Psychology 280, or Sociology 201, or a three unit elementary statistics course. (25-26 units)

These prerequisite courses may not be taken Cr/NC. The minimum grade in each class is C or higher.

Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement. Passing the Writing Placement Assessment with a score of 10 or completing one of the approved upper division writing courses (W) with a grade of C (2.0) or better. See “Graduation Requirements” section for a complete listing of requirements.

Major. A minimum of 50-53 upper division units to include Child and Family Development 335, 353A, 353B, 353C, 370, 375A, 375B, 375C, 475, 537, 560, 575, 578, 590, 598, and one of the two specializations listed below.

Child Development Specialist: Child and Family Development 377, 378A (1 unit), and 378B (1 unit) or 378D (1 unit), 380, 477, and 577.

Family Development Specialist: Child and Family Development 378C (1 unit), 378D (1 unit), 536, and nine units selected with the approval of the program adviser.

Requirements for the Major: Child development majors are required to complete three units or 120 hours (minimum) in one of the following three study areas with the preapproval and written consent of the undergraduate adviser.

1. Study Abroad. Courses taken as part of study abroad may count toward the completion of the child development degree. Students need to work with the undergraduate adviser to make sure their selection of classes will qualify.

2. Research. Selected topics are determined by the Department of Child and Family Development. Contact department for directions to register in research laboratories (Child and Family Development 499). Assignments will be made after an interview with the department chair.

Evidence of a negative tuberculinosis test
Child and Family Development

3. Community Based Learning. Students work directly with children and service providers in preselected community outreach programs/agencies to further their career and professional development. Students register in Child and Family Development 597 and work under supervision of faculty as well as service providers.

Reflective Learning Portfolio (Child and Family Development 598). Students are required to prepare a portfolio to reflect, integrate, and synthesize their cumulative learning experience acquired in child and family development courses, study abroad programs, involvement in research projects with faculty, and/or internships. The reflective portfolio will be a capstone culminating experience to provide the opportunity to integrate knowledge and understanding of the child and family development curriculum with their academic and personal growth.

Child Development Minor
(SIMS Code: 330909)

The minor in child development consists of a minimum of 19 units to include Child and Family Development 270, 270L (1 unit), Psychology 101, and 12 upper division units selected from Child and Family Development courses.

Courses in the minor may not be counted toward the major, but may be used to satisfy preparation for the major and general education requirements, if applicable. A minimum of six upper division units must be completed in residence at San Diego State University.

Family Life Education Certificate
(Certificate Code: 90004) (SIMS Code: 662925)

The purpose of this certificate program is to prepare students for careers in Family Life Education (FLE). FLE is an educational program designed to strengthen relationships in the home and foster positive individual, couple, and family development. The program is designed for individuals working on degrees in child development, health science, psychology, and social work. It also provides a self-improvement opportunity for people seeking employment, promotion, or upward mobility on the job who are not enrolled in degree programs. The certificate corresponds to the 10 content areas of FLE established by the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR): 1) Families and Individuals in Societal Contexts; 2) Internal Dynamics of Families; 3) Human Growth and Development Across the Life Span; 4) Human Sexuality; 5) Interpersonal Relationships; 6) Family Resource Management; 7) Parent Education and Guidance; 8) Family Law and Public Policy; 9) Professional Ethics and Practice; 10) Family Life Education Methodology.

Awarding of the certificate requires completion of an approved pattern of five to six courses (15-18 units) with a grade of “C” or better in each of the courses in one of the 10 areas of FLE. Each area requires the student to take a core of nine units to include Child and Family Development 270, 270L (1 unit), Child and Family Development 335; Child and Family Development 375B or 375C; Child and Family Development 378B, or 378C or 378D, and two or three additional courses specific to the selected area. The course offerings in each area prepare students for advanced knowledge in that area. For example, courses for the Human Sexuality area meet the criteria for training and standards of the American Association of Sex Educators and Counselors. Contact the department for a full list of required courses for all 10 areas of FLE. A 45 hour internship specific to the chosen content area is required. Courses in the certificate may not be counted toward the minor.

+Indicates course with prerequisites not included in requirements listed above.

Courses (CFD)

Refer to Courses and Curricula and University Policies sections of this catalog for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.

LOWER DIVISION COURSES

CFD 135. Principles of Family Development (3) [GE]
Intimacy, compatibility, conflict, and communication in relationship formation and adjustment.

CFD 170. Child and Adolescent Development from a Cultural Perspective (3) [GE]
(Same course as Teacher Education 170)
Theories of human development using a cultural/ecological framework applied to case studies and direct observations. Open only to liberal studies majors. Not open to students with credit in Child and Family Development 270, Psychology 230, or Teacher Education 170.

CFD 270. Human Development Across the Lifespan (3)
Prerequisites: Psychology 101; concurrent registration in Child and Family Development 270L for one unit. Proof of completion of prerequisite required: Copy of transcript.
Development from conception to old age; emphasis on biological, cognitive, and socio-emotional development. Not open to students with credit in Child and Family Development 170, Psychology 230, or Teacher Education 170.

CFD 270L. Principles of Observation: Child Development Laboratory (1-3)
Three hours of laboratory for each unit. Prerequisites: Psychology 101; credit or concurrent registration in Child and Family Development 270. Proof of completion of prerequisite required: Copy of transcript.
Multiple methods of observing and recording individual and group behavior of children. Observations required. May be repeated with consent of instructor. Maximum credit three units.

CFD 272. Child, Family, and Community Engagement (3)
Prerequisites: Child and Family Development 135, 270, 270L (one unit); Sociology 101. Proof of completion of prerequisites required: Copy of transcript.
Individual and family needs and the social institutions and agencies attempting to meet these needs. Social issues, service programs, program analyses, and program effectiveness emphasized.

CFD 275. Learning Environments and Developmentally Appropriate Practices (3)
Two lectures and two hours of activity. Prerequisites: Child and Family Development 270, 270L (one unit). Proof of completion of prerequisites required: Copy of transcript.
Design, implementation, and evaluation of developmentally appropriate practices for children and families.

CFD 296. Experimental Topics (1-4)
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.

UPPER DIVISION COURSES
(Intended for Undergraduates)

CFD 335. Interactions in Culturally Diverse Families (3)
Prerequisites: 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.
Family interaction patterns throughout the life cycle in a multicultural society. Emphasis on theories, research findings, and family practices.
CFD 353A. Parenting the Young Child (1)
Prerequisites: Child and Family Development 135, 270, 270L (one unit).
Parenting from conception to age five. Attachment, temperament, behavior regulation in cultural context. Effects of parenting styles and interactions on child's developmental outcomes.

CFD 353B. Parenting the School-Age Child (1)
Prerequisites: Child and Family Development 135, 270, 270L (one unit).
Parenting the school-age child (ages 5-12). Developmental tasks, parent-child relationship, parenting styles, parents' role as managers, parent involvement in education. Boundaries and behavioral guidelines to raise an emotionally competent child.

CFD 353C. Parenting the Teen and Young Adult (1)
Prerequisites: Child and Family Development 135, 270, 270L (one unit).
Theories and research on parenting teens and young adults within cultural contexts. Effects of parent-child relationship, parenting styles and discipline on identity formation, separation, individuation, and intimacy.

CFD 370. Research, Assessment, and Evaluation of Children and Families (3)
Prerequisite: 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.
Methods for measuring child, caregiver, and family behavior. Evaluation of reliability and validity. Includes research design, sampling techniques, data collection strategies, and values/ethics.

CFD 375A. Human Development and Learning: Infant/Toddler (2)
Prerequisites: Credit or concurrent registration in one of two required Child and Family Development 378 laboratory courses in area of specialization, selected with consent of adviser. 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.
Physiological, psychological, cognitive, and socio-emotional development of the human organism in cultural contexts from conception to three years of age.

CFD 375B. Human Development and Learning: Early/Middle Childhood (2)
Prerequisites: Credit or concurrent registration in one of two required Child and Family Development 378 laboratory courses in area of specialization, selected with consent of adviser. 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.
Physiological, psychological, cognitive, and socio-emotional development of the human organism in cultural contexts from age 3 to age 12. Not open to students with credit in Child and Family Development 371 and 375.

CFD 375C. Human Development and Learning: Adolescence/Adulthood (2)
Prerequisites: Credit or concurrent registration in one of two required Child and Family Development 378 laboratory courses in area of specialization, selected with consent of adviser. 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.
Physiological, psychological, cognitive, and socio-emotional development of the human organism in cultural contexts from age 12 to old age. Not open to students with credit in Child and Family Development 371 and 375.

CFD 377. Leadership and Adult Supervision in Child and Family Development Programs (3)
Prerequisites: Child and Family Development 375A, 375B; and two units selected from Child and Family Development 378A, 378B, or 378D. Proof of completion of prerequisites required: Copy of transcript.
Development of leadership, communication, conflict resolution, and supervision of professionals in child and family development programs.

CFD 378A. Laboratory Experiences: Infants/Toddlers (1-3) Cr/NC
Three hours of laboratory for each unit of credit.
Prerequisites: Concurrent registration in Child and Family Development 375A. 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.
Directed experiences in mainstream settings for infants and toddlers. Observing, screening, assessing, designing, and implementing developmentally appropriate activities. Maximum credit three units with consent of instructor.

CFD 378B. Laboratory Experiences: Preschool/Kindergarten (1-3) Cr/NC
Three hours of laboratory for each unit of credit.
Prerequisites: Credit or concurrent registration in Child and Family Development 375B. 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.
Directed experiences in mainstream settings for children ages 3 to 6, preschool, and kindergarten children. Observing, screening, assessing, designing and implementing developmentally appropriate activities. Maximum credit three units with consent of instructor. Not to exceed three units of credit in any combination with Child and Family Development 376A completed prior to fall 2006.

CFD 378C. Laboratory Experiences: Age 6 Through Adolescence (1-3) Cr/NC
Three hours of laboratory for each unit of credit.
Prerequisites: Credit or concurrent registration in Child and Family Development 375B or 375C. 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.
Directed experiences in mainstream settings for children ages six through adolescence. Observing, screening, assessing, designing and implementing developmentally appropriate activities. Maximum credit three units with consent of instructor.

CFD 378D. Laboratory Experiences with Children and Families (1-3) Cr/NC
Three hours of laboratory for each unit of credit.
Prerequisites: Credit or concurrent registration in Child and Family Development 375A, 375B, or 375C. 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.
Directed experiences in intergenerational programs. Observing, screening, assessing, designing and implementing developmentally appropriate interactions for children and their families/caregivers. Maximum credit three units with consent of instructor.

CFD 380. Early Language and Literacy Development in a Linguistically Diverse Society (3)
Prerequisites: Child and Family Development 375A and 375B; and Child and Family Development 378A or 378B or 378D. 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.
Language acquisition and early literacy development. Brain development and socio-emotional learning. Applications of developmentally appropriate and culturally responsive practice to enhance language, literacy, and school readiness.
CFD 437. Violence in Relationships (3) [GE]  
Prerequisites: Psychology 101, Sociology 101, and completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences.  
Impact of relationship violence on individual development and ecological relationships. Historical and cultural contexts, child abuse and neglect, courtship violence, elder abuse, and violence in communities.

CFD 475. Promoting Behavior Support and Classroom Organization in Early Childhood Settings (3)  
Individual and systems-level approach to supporting young child behavior. Strategies for self-regulation, and three-tiers intervention, in early education settings and at home, to support all children, a targeted group of children who require additional support, and individual children who require intensive support.

CFD 477. Administration of Child Development Programs (3)  
Prerequisites: Child and Family Development 375A, 375B, 380; and two units selected from Child and Family Development 378A, 378B, 378D. Proof of completion of prerequisite required: Copy of transcript.  
Programs for young children: design, implementation, and evaluation. Research applications and legal requirements for public and private sectors.

CFD 496. Experimental Topics (1-4)  
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.

CFD 499. Special Study (1-3)  
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.  
Individual study. Maximum credit six units.

UPPER DIVISION COURSES  (Also Acceptable for Advanced Degrees)  

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)  
Multidisciplinary approach to child abuse and family violence including maltreatment, mistreatment, neglect, sexual abuse.

CFD 560. Theories in Socio-Emotional Development (3)  
Socio-emotional development from infancy to adulthood. Theory of mind, emotion 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)  
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  Refer to the Graduate Bulletin.