

Proposal for the Committee on Academic Planning

Certificate in Child and Adolescent Development

Description:

The certificate in child and adolescent development is designed to 1. provide students with in-depth background and understanding of child and adolescent development as well as developmental research and 2. train students in evaluation of developmental science as they engage in seminars and their own independent research project with one of the department's developmental psychologists. The certificate is an innovative program designed to provide students a strong knowledge base in child and adolescent development in preparation for graduate programs in developmental psychology or counseling, or for work in a field related to child and adolescent development.

Justification:

The certificate in child and adolescent development will provide students with a comprehensive overview of the physical, cognitive, and social development of children and adolescents. This would prepare UW-Parkside students with the necessary background for successful admittance to developmental psychology PhD programs, as well as related fields of Child Counseling and Educational Psychology. Additionally, this would benefit students already working in a field with children or adolescents.

Courses and Requirements

Required

PSYC 210. Introduction to Human Development

Credits: 3

Prereq: PSYC 101. Freq: Fall, Spring.

PSYC 334. Infant Development

Credits: 3

Prereq: PSYC 210, 300 Freq: Occasionally.

PSYC 337. Child Development

Credits: 3

Prereq: PSYC 210, 300. Freq: Occasionally.

*Note: This is a proposed course

PSYC 339. Adolescent Development

Credits: 3

Prereq: PSYC 210, 300. Freq: Occasionally.

Electives (Must complete 6 credits)

PSYC 441. Advanced Human Development Seminar

Credits: 3

Prereq: PSYC 210, 300. Freq: Occasionally.

PSYC 494. Psychology Internship

Credits: 3

*Note: Internship must be developmental in nature and supervised by developmental psychology faculty

PSYC 499. Independent Study

Credits: 3

Prereq: PSYC 300, consent of instructor or department chair. Freq: Fall, Spring.

*Note: Independent Study must be supervised by developmental psychology faculty

Total Credits: 18

Entrance Requirement: B- or better in PSYC 210

Exit Requirement: Overall 3.0 GPA in courses used to meet requirements.

For further information about the program contact the program advisers: Dr. McGinley or Dr. Hillard

Why is the new program being proposed?

The Developmental Certificate within the Psychology major is being proposed because 1. It is an extension of the current undergraduate psychology program at UW-Parkside, 2. It is aligned with several goals on the UW-Parkside strategic plan, and 3. It will prepare students for graduate programs in Developmental Psychology and careers working with youth.

The certificate is a natural extension of the Psychology Department's undergraduate program which provides students with theoretical and empirical skills in developmental science, an extensive academic focus in the field of developmental science, and critical thinking skills that graduate programs value. Our program regularly offers three upper-level courses (infant development, adolescent development, and advanced human development) and multiple independent study opportunities with two developmental faculty. The certificate, which will also include one new proposed course (child development), will provide students with a comprehensive and deeper understanding of youth development, as well as multiple experiential opportunities in developmentally-focused research and internships.

The certificate aims are consistent with the mission and strategic plan of UW-Parkside as well as the mission and plans of the College of Natural and Health Sciences (CNHS) that emphasize enriching students' intellectual experiences through hands-on research (which will be provided via independent study opportunities and/or internship). The certificate will be a high-quality educational experience that provides students with the background and critical thinking skills necessary to prepare for graduate programs in developmental science and career opportunities in a diverse range of scientific research, clinical, policy, and educational fields.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the national 2020-2013 job trend forecast for typical jobs in this field are faster than average (e.g., School and Career Counselors and Advisors: 11%; Preschool/Childcare Director: 11%; Postsecondary Education: 12%; Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors: 23%). According to BLS, the entry level for these positions is at least a bachelor's degree, but most will ultimately require an advanced graduate degree or additional credentials (e.g., Child Development Associate for Preschool/Childcare Director). The proposed certificate will give students the foundation for graduate school or these certifications.

Who is the target audience?

The target audience is students with an interest in child and adolescent populations. The certificate will be appropriate for students who wish to pursue graduate programs in Developmental Psychology, Educational Psychology, or Human Development and Family Studies, clinical or counseling oriented students interested in specializing in youth populations, and students who wish to pursue careers in fields that require knowledge of the theory and application of child and adolescent development.

What are the learning outcomes/goals anticipated for the changes and/or new program? (Think HLC and industry's contemporary practice)

A background in Child and Adolescent Development will prepare students for a variety of career paths. The goals of the certificate are to: provide students with both a breadth and depth of knowledge of child and adolescent development, 2. provide students with a curriculum that emphasizes the study of child and adolescent psychology as a developmental science employing the scientific method, 3. encourage students to engage in critical analysis and communication about the study of children and adolescents, 4. engage students in developmental research.

How do the changes or new program compare with what is currently in place?

There is one related but not equivalent certificate in the Sociology department--the Child and Family Advocacy certificate. However, the proposed certificate deviates significantly from what is currently offered in that it focuses more specifically on developmental processes and research in infancy, childhood, and adolescence from a psychological perspective.

What is the financial and workload impact if/when the changes are implemented? (like new instructors, advisors/advising loads, equipment/materials/labs, etc.)

A new course, Child Development, has been proposed to round out the developmental series included within the certificate (e.g., infancy through adolescence). The remaining courses included in the certificate are already regularly taught by faculty in the department.