Psychology and Child Development

Faculty Office Bldg. (47), Room 24  
Phone: 805.756.2033  
http://psycd.calpoly.edu/  

Department Chair: Jasna Jovanovic

Academic Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program name</th>
<th>Program type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Development</td>
<td>BS, Minor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerontology</td>
<td>Minor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>BS, MS, Minor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The department consists of faculty with degrees in psychology, family studies, human development and education who direct programs leading to BS Child Development, BS Psychology, MS Psychology, and minors in Child Development, Psychology, and Gerontology.

In addition, courses are offered which fulfill general education requirements, support other programs and serve as a personal development resource for all university students. These courses are designed to acquaint students with the facts, theories and contemporary trends in psychology and child development and how these principles can be incorporated into a more meaningful understanding of oneself and of one's interactions with others. The department supports the concept of international education and encourages students to investigate opportunities for overseas study. For further information, see the Study Abroad programs (http://catalog.calpoly.edu/academicsupportandcampuslife/academicservicesandprograms/calpolyinternationalcenter).

Undergraduate Programs

BS Child Development

The Child Development major is designed for students who are interested in professions involving children and adolescents in a variety of settings. The major provides the scientific base for understanding development from birth through emerging adulthood. The program emphasizes the ecological contexts in which development occurs, including family, school, technology, community, and culture. Graduates often continue studies in graduate and credential programs, and pursue a range of careers in education, intervention programs, and human services.

The Child Development major is designed to enable students to develop a program of study suited to their individual needs and become part of a learning community of faculty and students. After completing core courses in child and adolescent development, they will develop a personal program of study by selecting electives, two internships, and a senior project. Each student graduates with a BS in Child Development, and may obtain a minor in Psychology after filing a minor application form.

Goals of the Child Development major are for students to:

- Study how children and youth affect and are affected by the formal and informal environments in which they grow.
- Gain experience working with children and youth of different ages and backgrounds in various settings.
- Develop expertise in the use of digital technologies to access, create, and disseminate information related to the learning and development of children and youth.
- Develop an understanding of multicultural and anti-discrimination issues and how to lead children and youth into an appreciation of diversity.
- Develop skills in research, leadership, effective communication, and community building.

BS Psychology

The Psychology major offers a broad preparation in the science of psychology. Theoretical approaches, research techniques, laboratory experiences and internships are hallmarks of the psychology program.

Graduates often pursue careers in mental health programs, social services agencies, public health settings, education institutions, and personnel-related settings. Many majors go on to graduate work in such fields of psychology as: counseling, developmental, family, social, clinical or experimental.

Students may pursue a course of study which meets their individual needs and interests. Electives are selected by the student with the advice of the student's academic advisor.

Child Development Minor

The minor is designed to provide students a broad knowledge base in child and adolescent development. Biological, cognitive, social, and emotional development are examined in context (e.g., family, school, culture). The minor builds upon students' critical thinking skills by approaching child development as a scientific area of study. This minor complements one's background in majors such as Liberal Studies, Psychology, Kinesiology, or Recreation, Parks, Tourism and Administration. An application form must be approved by a Child Development Minor advisor.

Gerontology Minor and Certificate Program

The Gerontology minor/certificate program is an interdisciplinary set of courses that prepares students in various majors whose careers will be directly or indirectly related to gerontology. The certificate program also allows non-matriculated students to develop or upgrade their skills and knowledge for those interested or already working in the field of gerontology. Coursework includes the psychological, biological, and social aspects of aging; changing roles; stress-related problems; and an understanding of the impact of an aging population on social, economic, and political institutions. Among the requirements for admission to the program is a minimum GPA of 3.00. All applicants are reviewed by the program coordinator.

Psychology Minor

The minor provides students with a broad background in the principles of psychology in order to develop an appreciation of the human element in the world around them, complement their professional
training, and enhance their personal development and interpersonal effectiveness.

Students whose primary job responsibilities will require dealing with people should find employment opportunities increased and career advancement enhanced. Interested students are encouraged to contact the Psychology and Child Development Department for information and application forms. An application form must be approved by a Psychology Minor advisor.

Graduate Program
MS in Psychology
General Characteristics
The Master of Science in Psychology is a 90-quarter unit professional degree program designed to provide the state of California with highly competent master-level clinicians who are academically prepared to obtain the marriage and family therapy (MFT) license. The program places a heavy emphasis on clinical skill training and applied experience that begins early in the program and culminates with an intensive supervised internship in a community mental health setting.

Admission to the Program
In addition to the general requirements of the University, specific requirements for admission to classified graduate standing are:

• an acceptable baccalaureate degree from an institution accredited by a regional association;
• a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in the last 90 quarter units (60 semester units) attempted;
• satisfactory performance on the General Tests (Verbal, Quantitative, Analytical) of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE); the GRE Advanced Test in Psychology is not required;
• three letters of recommendation;
• autobiographical information;

Related work or volunteer experience is highly desirable as is having received professional counseling.

Prerequisites
Coursework in abnormal psychology, lifespan theories, personality, introductory statistics, and research methods in psychology (or related discipline). Completion of these prerequisites is necessary for admission to the program.

Classified Standing
For admission as a classified graduate student, a student shall have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in the last 90 quarter units (60 semester units) attempted and shall have earned an acceptable baccalaureate degree from an institution accredited by a regional association. Additionally, the student must have satisfactorily met the professional, personal, scholastic, and other standards for graduate study, including qualifying examinations, as the appropriate university authorities may prescribe. Only those applicants who show promise of success and fitness are admitted, and only those who continue to demonstrate a satisfactory level of scholastic competence and who possess appropriate personal qualities are eligible to continue in the program.

Conditionally Classified Standing
The student may enroll in a graduate degree curriculum if in the opinion of the M.S. Program Committee the student can remedy any deficiencies by additional preparation.

Advancement to Candidacy
Advancement to master's degree candidacy requires completion of a minimum of 30 quarter units of required courses in residence, specified in a formal program of study, with a minimum grade point average of 3.0, fulfillment of the Graduation Writing Requirement, and the formal recommendation of the M.S. Program Committee. Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 in all coursework completed subsequent to admission to the program.

Program of Study
The student must maintain a grade point average of 3.0 (B) or better in all courses taken subsequent to program admission. Calculation of the grade point average includes all grades, though only the units in courses with grades of A, B, or C are counted to satisfy requirements for the degree. Required courses with a grade of D or F must be repeated.

All candidates must meet the current Graduation Writing Requirement.

Sixty-four quarter units must be completed in residence. Transfer credits are allowed if acceptable for master's degree credit at the offering institution and approved by the M.S. Program Committee.

The Master of Science degree in Psychology requires a culminating experience that includes either the completion of a thesis or passing a comprehensive exam. Each candidate must file a formal program of study by the end of the first quarter as a classified graduate student. The professional and personal growth of each graduate student is of major importance; consequently, candidates are encouraged to seek the experience of personal therapy. Students must be very aware of course prerequisites and check the catalog carefully to assure enrollment in required courses.

MFT Licensing
The Master of Science in Psychology is designed to meet the educational requirements for the Marriage and Family Therapist license (MFT) in the State of California. Students are advised to acquire and read the laws governing MFT licensure from the Board of Behavioral Science Examiners, 1625 North Market Blvd., Suite S-200, Sacramento, CA 95834. State documents must be filed by the applicant within 30 days of program graduation. See the program coordinator for the procedure required for application for this license. State documents must be filed by the applicant within 30 days of program graduation.

Grades
If a candidate for University recommendation for MFT licensure has more than one grade of C or lower among the courses to be verified for the Board of Behavioral Sciences, that form will not be approved by the Chief Academic Officer Designee of Cal Poly.

Practicum and Traineeship
Practicum and traineeship courses represent the student's demonstration of the clinical skills basic to marriage, family and child counseling. A student who receives a grade of NC in practicum or traineeship is on probation regarding continuation in the program. A second grade of NC disqualifies the student from the program and
University recommendation for the license. Also, candidates may be disqualified from this program for academic-related actions judged by the M.S. Program Committee to reflect unethical and/or unprofessional conduct.