Child Development (CD)

CD Courses

CD 102. Orientation to the Child Development Major. 2 units
Term Typically Offered: F
Prerequisite: CD majors only.
Introduction to the child development major, self-assessments, career opportunities, university and community resources, and the program at Cal Poly. 2 lectures.

CD 131. Observing and Interacting with Children. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Observation methods and guidance techniques for adults working with children in family, community, and educational settings. 3 lectures, 1 activity.

CD 200. Special Problems. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Supervised investigation, including a written report, of a topic chosen with prior approval of instructor. Total credit limited to 6 units, with a maximum of 4 units per quarter.

CD 207. Children's Learning and Development in Educational Settings. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: CD 131 and PSY 256.
Preliminary teaching experience with children in a preschool laboratory setting. Participant planning, execution and evaluation of age-appropriate activities. Observation is used as the basis for planning for the development of the whole child. 2 lecture, 2 laboratories.

CD 230. Preschool Laboratory. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: CD 131 and PSY 256.
Preliminary teaching experience with children in a preschool laboratory setting. Participant planning, execution and evaluation of age-appropriate activities. Observation is used as the basis for planning for the development of the whole child. 2 lecture, 2 laboratories.

CD 254. Family Psychology. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: PSY 201 or PSY 202.
Introduction to research and theory on family relationships and behavior across the lifespan. Contextual influences, diversity of family forms, and topics such as love, mate selection, marital quality, parenting, gender, household work, divorce, and remarriage. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as CD/PSY 254.

CD 256. Developmental Psychology. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: PSY 201 or PSY 202.
Introduction to the scientific study of development with emphasis on the lifespan, from infancy to old age. Basic research and concepts in understanding social, emotional, cognitive, contextual, and diversity influences on development. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as CD/PSY 256.

CD 270. Selected Topics. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Open to undergraduate students and consent of instructor.
Directed group study of selected topics. The Schedule of Classes will list title selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1 to 4 lectures.

CD 304. Infant and Toddler Development. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: PSY 256.
Human development from conception through the second year of life. Examination of theory and research in multiple domains of development. Consideration of environments and activities which enhance the emerging capabilities of infants and toddlers. 4 lectures.

CD 305. Early and Middle Childhood Development. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: PSY 256 or CD/EDUC 207.
In-depth study of theory and research on development in early and middle childhood, especially within physical, cognitive, social, and emotional domains. Consideration of case studies and current practices in light of theoretical perspectives and current research. 4 lectures.

CD 306. Adolescence. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: PSY 256 or CD/EDUC 207.
Psychological analysis of the years from prepubescence to young adulthood. Current research on behavior and development during adolescence with emphasis on physical, affective, cognitive, sociocultural, historical, family, peer and school aspects of life during the post-child, pre-adult years. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as CD/PSY 306.

CD 329. Research Methods in Child Development. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W
Prerequisite: PSY 256, STAT 217.
Introduction to research methods in child development. Critically evaluating research literature, generating research questions, and conducting observations and interviews with children and adolescents. 3 lectures, 1 activity.

CD 330. Supervised Fieldwork Internship. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
CR/NC
Prerequisite: Psychology and Child Development majors only; CD 230, PSY 323, junior standing and consent of instructor.
Faculty supervised fieldwork experience. Role of professional apprentice is experienced and analyzed by each student. Credit/No Credit grading only.

CD 333. Research Internship. 4 units
CR/NC
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: CD 230 and CD 329.
Faculty-supervised research experience on various topics related to child and adolescent development. Student apprenticeship with a department faculty member engaging in a research project. Credit/No Credit grading only.
CD 350. Developmental Issues in Education. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W
Prerequisite: CD/EDUC 207 or PSY 256.

Current issues and research concerning how children and youth develop and learn in school. Topics may include motivation, views of intelligence, teacher and student relations, constructivist learning environments, socioemotional learning, school climates, home-school connections. 4 lectures.

CD 351. Learning in Out-of-School Time. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: W, SP
Prerequisite: CD/PSY 256 or CD/EDUC 207.

How children and youth develop and learn in settings and activities outside of formal schooling, such as everyday family activities, informal learning institutions (e.g., museums), nature, and organized extracurricular activities. Research findings and theoretical perspectives on how activity in such settings supports development and learning. 4 lectures.

CD 400. Special Problems for Advanced Undergraduates. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Junior standing.

Supervised investigation, including a written report, of a topic chosen with prior approval of instructor. Total credit limited to 6 units, with a maximum of 4 units per quarter.

CD 401. Perspectives on Child and Adolescent Development. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: W, SP
Prerequisite: CD 304, CD 305, CD 306, CD 329 and senior standing.

Advanced study of theoretical perspectives and research on the development of children and adolescents and the implications for current practice and policy. 4 seminars.

CD 413. Children, Adolescents & Technology. 6 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: CD 305, CD 306, CD 329.

Examination of research and theory on how children and adolescents use digital technologies and influences on cognitive, social, and identity development. Observations of children’s use of various digital technologies, and design of activities that use technology tools to support learning goals. 4 lectures, 2 laboratories.

CD 417. Interpersonal Relationships in Childhood and Adolescence. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: CD 304, CD 305 or CD 306; or PSY 256 and PSY 305.

Current theories and research on the development of interpersonal relationships in childhood and adolescence. Topics may include parent-child relationships, peer relationships in childhood, intimate relationships in adolescence. The Schedule of Classes will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as CD/PSY 417.

CD 424. Children's Learning and Development in Diverse Families and Communities. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, SP
Prerequisite: Two of the following: CD 304, CD 305, CD 306; junior standing or consent of instructor.

Examination of research on child and adolescent learning and development in diverse families and community settings. Further study of ecological and sociocultural perspectives and cross-cultural research. 4 lectures.

CD 430. Advanced Supervised Fieldwork Internship. 4 units
CR/NC
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: CD 330 and consent of instructor; Psychology and Child Development majors only.

Faculty-supervised preprofessional experience in a career-related setting which complements the CD 330 internship. Such roles as master teacher, caseworker, therapeutic intern, administrative aide or program specialist are experienced and analyzed by each student. Credit/No credit grading only.

CD 431. Assessing Children's Development and Environments. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, SP
Prerequisite: CD 304 or CD 305 or PSY 419 or PSY 420 or PSY 421; and CD 329 or PSY 329.

Current developmental and environmental assessments used in care and educational settings and in prevention programs and research. Practice using, creating, and evaluating child assessments. 3 lectures, 1 activity. Crosslisted as CD/PSY 431.

CD 433. Advanced Research Internship. 4 units
CR/NC
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: CD 333.

Faculty-supervised research experience on various topics related to child and adolescent development. Student apprenticeship with a department faculty member to conduct aspects of a research project. Credit/No Credit grading only.

CD 456. Behavioral Disorders in Childhood. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: SP
Prerequisite: PSY 201 or PSY 202; junior standing.


CD 460. Child Abuse and Neglect. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: PSY 201 or PSY 202 and junior standing.

Issues in child maltreatment, including definitions and forms, causes, consequences, assessment, reporting, treatment, and prevention. Possible links among research, intervention, and public policy will be emphasized. 4 seminars. Crosslisted as CD/PSY 460.
CD 461. Senior Project Seminar. 2 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W
Prerequisite: Completion of GWR and CD 329; Psychology and Child Development majors only.

Senior project expectations and skills. Students work alone or in groups to identify appropriate topics, methods and content for the senior project; to be presented in a series of progress reports. Begin literature reviews for completion in CD 462. 2 seminars.

CD 462. Senior Project. 2 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: CD 461.

Completion of a project under faculty supervision.

CD 470. Selected Advanced Topics. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Directed group study of selected topics for advanced students. Open to undergraduate and graduate students. Class Schedule will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1-4 lectures.