



Twin Cities Campus

Applied Child and Adolescent Development M.A.

Institute of Child Development

College of Education and Human Development

Link to a [list of faculty](#) for this program.

Contact Information:

Institute of Child Development

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Website: <http://icd.umn.edu/academics/applied-child-and-adolescent-development/>

- Program Type: Master's
- Requirements for this program are current for Fall 2021
- Length of program in credits: 32 to 35
- This program requires summer semesters for timely completion.
- Degree: Master of Arts

Along with the program-specific requirements listed below, please read the [General Information](#) section of the catalog website for requirements that apply to all major fields.

Students will gain knowledge of developmental processes and competence in the application of theory and research to practice and policy/research. Specialization happens via formal tracks in infant and early childhood mental health, child life, or individualized studies.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- completely online (all program coursework can be completed online)

Prerequisites for Admission

The preferred undergraduate GPA for admittance to the program is 3.00.

Other requirements to be completed before admission:

Applicants identify their selected track at the time of application.

Applicants must have completed at least one general psychology, human development, or social science course with a grade of B or higher. Applicants must submit, via the online application system, a departmental application to a specific track, TOEFL scores if applicable, three letters of recommendation from persons familiar with their potential for graduate study, unofficial transcripts, a statement of career interests, goals, and objectives, and a statement of diversity.

Special Application Requirements:

Child Life track applicants (required):

*Completed, or have in progress, a child life introductory course

*Have completed at least 100 hours of paid or volunteer work in a pediatric health care setting, preferably under the supervision of a certified child specialist

*Meet the Child Life Councils minimum technical standards for clinical-setting internships

Child Life track applicants (recommended):

*Completed course in human anatomy or medical terminology

*Completed, or have in progress, a child life practicum experience

International applicants must submit score(s) from one of the following tests:

- TOEFL
 - Internet Based - Writing Score: 21
 - Internet Based - Reading Score: 19

The preferred English language test is Test of English as Foreign Language



Key to [test abbreviations](#)(TOEFL).

For an online application or for more information about graduate education admissions, see the [General Information](#) section of the catalog website.

Program Requirements

Plan C: Plan C requires 32 to 35 major credits and up to null credits outside the major. There is no final exam. A capstone project is required.

Capstone Project: Field Experience credits: The field experience, taken at the end of a student's course of study, integrates the foundational knowledge gained via coursework with an applied field experience/internship.

This program may be completed with a minor.

Use of 4xxx courses towards program requirements is not permitted.

A minimum GPA of 2.8 is required for students to remain in good standing.

Core Courses (14 Credits)

Take the following courses:

[CPSY 5301](#) - Advanced Developmental Psychology (3.0 cr)

[CPSY 5302](#) - Cognitive and Biological Development (3.0 cr)

[CPSY 5303](#) - Social and Emotional Development (3.0 cr)

[CPSY 5304](#) - Research Methods in Applied Child and Adolescent Development (3.0 cr)

[CPSY 5306](#) - Ethics and Professionalism in Applied Child and Adolescent Development (2.0 cr)

Field Experience Credits (3 to 6 credits)

Students pursuing the Individualized Studies track or the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Track take 3 credits. Students pursuing the Child Life track take 6 credits. Credits are completed in consultation with the advisor.

[CPSY 5996](#) - Field Experience in Applied Child and Adolescent Development (1.0 - 12.0 cr)

Program Sub-plans

Students are required to complete one of the following sub-plans.

Students may not complete the program with more than one sub-plan.

Child Life

The child life track is committed to preparing child life specialists with a strong educational foundation in developmental science coupled with a thorough theoretical education in topics central to the child life profession, such as illness and injury, therapeutic play and relationships, and childhood death and bereavement. Students will develop the skills necessary to promote family-centered care and work with children and their families who are living with chronic and acute healthcare challenges.

Required Courses (15 credits)

Take the following courses:

[CPSY 5601](#) - Child Life Theory, Practice and Program Development (3.0 cr)

[CPSY 5602](#) - Developmental Perspectives on Illness and Injury in Healthcare (3.0 cr)

[CPSY 5603](#) - Therapeutic Play for Child Life Practice (3.0 cr)

[CPSY 5604](#) - Therapeutic Relationships: Supporting Children in Healthcare (3.0 cr)

[CPSY 5605](#) - Childhood Death and Bereavement (3.0 cr)

Individualized Studies

The individualized studies track prepares students whose work intersects with children and families with a strong academic foundation in developmental science and the opportunity to choose electives that best meet a student's individual career goals. This track recognizes the wide-ranging professions that benefit from integration with developmental science, such as policy development, evaluation studies, prevention science, parent education, among many other domains currently addressed via existing coursework at the University.

Required Courses (3 credits)

Take the following course:

[EPSY 5261](#) - Introductory Statistical Methods (3.0 cr)

Electives (12 credits)

Select at least 12 elective credits in consultation with the track advisor.



Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health

The Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health track is committed to the development of culturally competent, trauma-informed practitioners and policy makers through inter-disciplinary studies and supervised professional practice. The track's philosophy is shaped by an ecological, multigenerational, relational model of development and intervention, attending to the ways biology, environment (i.e., family, culture, socioeconomic context), and individual history transact to promote health and pathology. The track consists of coursework and training in the application of developmental science to early childhood evidence-based practice and policy development. The training prepares practitioners to conceptualize case work with young children (0-5) and their caregivers, and prepares individuals to formulate and advocate research-based policy and practice in the area of children's mental health.

LPCC Licensure

The University does not award licensure; however, IECMH-track students who can attend on-campus classes have the opportunity to take 28 additional credits concurrently with their MA to complete LPCC licensure application requirements for the state of Minnesota. Most of the required coursework is offered through the University's Integrated Behavioral Health Program at the College of Continuing and Professional Studies.

Licensure requirements are subject to change. Please visit <https://mn.gov/boards/behavioral-health/> for current requirements.

Required Courses (15 credits)

Take the following courses:

- [CPSY 5503](#) - Development and Psychopathology in Early Childhood (3.0 cr)
- [CPSY 5506](#) - Infant Observation Seminar I (1.0 cr)
- [CPSY 5508](#) - Infant Observation Seminar II (1.0 cr)
- [CPSY 5511](#) - Infant Observation Seminar III (1.0 cr)
- [CPSY 5513](#) - Early Childhood Assessment (3.0 cr)
- [CPSY 5518](#) - Prevention and Intervention in Early Childhood: Principles (3.0 cr)
- [CPSY 5521](#) - Prevention and Intervention in Early Childhood: Practice and Ethics (3.0 cr)