

DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY (PHD)

The Developmental Psychology Graduate Program aims to understand and support the healthy development of children, youth, and families. Our faculty specialize in the cognitive, social, emotional, cultural, physical, neurological, and spiritual factors that promote typical development and learning in infancy through adolescence. Through research training, coursework, and teaching, students gain the professional skills they need for non-clinical academic or professional careers.

Curriculum

The PhD in Developmental Psychology requires 60 credit hours, a critical review paper, master's thesis, qualifying examination, and dissertation.

En route to earning the PhD in Developmental Psychology, students complete a master's degree (30 credit hours), unless they enter with advanced standing from a master's in a relevant field from an accredited institution. An additional 30 credit hours are required beyond the master's degree for the doctoral degree.

Coursework Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Psychology Core ¹		
PSYC 420	Research Methods in Psychology	3
PSYC 482	Advanced Statistics	3
PSYC 435 or PSYC 552	Seminar in Cognitive Neuroscience Neuropsychology	3
PSYC 491	Multivariate Analysis	3
Development Track Requirements		
PSYC 473	Social Development	3
PSYC 475 or PSYC 473	Cognitive Development Social Development	3
<i>Choose Four Developmental Courses</i>		12
PSYC 515	Infancy	
PSYC 540	Psychology of Language Development	
PSYC 545	Select Topics in Developmental Psychology (Attention Learning and the Media)	
PSYC 545	Select Topics in Developmental Psychology (Parenting)	
PSYC 545	Select Topics in Developmental Psychology (Child Development and Social Policy)	
PSYC 548	Risk and Opportunity in Childhood and Adolescence	
<i>Choose One Social or Clinical Course</i>		3
PSYC 438	Principles of Psychological Assessment Child & Adult	
PSYC 451	Psychopathology of Childhood & Adolescents	
PSYC 460	Social Psychological Theory	
PSYC 461	Attitude and Attitude Change	
PSYC 462	Cognitive Social Psychology	
PSYC 474	Research in Group Dynamics	
PSYC 477	The Self and Self-Esteem	
PSYC 484	Prejudice and Intergroup Relations	

PSYC 489	Political Cognition	
PSYC 525	Seminar in Social Psychology	
PSYC 455	Developmental Psychology	
<i>Four Directed Readings</i>		12
PSYC 598	Research	
PSYC 597	Integrative Readings in Psychology	
PSYC 599	Directed Readings (Taken Twice)	
<i>Three Electives</i> ²		9
<i>Two Minor Area Courses</i> ³		6
Total Hours		60

¹ All courses in Psychology Core must be completed with a grade of B or better to be applied to the degree.

² Elective courses may be selected from the Developmental, Social or Clinical Topics courses listed above, or courses in the students' minor area, but each course can only count only once toward meeting a requirement (i.e., no double dipping).

³ Minor Areas include but are not limited to: Statistics, Education, and Women's Studies and Gender Studies. Other courses not listed here might also be acceptable to meet the minor requirement, but student must confer with Graduate Program Director. All courses must be taken at the graduate level (400 or above).

All PhD students and students in thesis-based Master's degree programs must successfully complete UNIV 370 Responsible Conduct in Research and Scholarship or other approved coursework in responsible conduct of research as part of the degree requirements. It is strongly recommended that students complete this two-day training before beginning the dissertation/thesis stage of the program.

Minor Area Options

Code	Title	Hours
Minor Area Options		
<i>Statistics Minor</i>		
PSYC 493	Structural Equation Modeling	
RMTD 484	Hierarchical Linear Models	
RMTD 487	Factor Analysis	
RMTD 488	Meta-Analysis	
<i>Education Minor</i>		
CIEP 401	The Exceptional Child	
CIEP 451	Psychology of Learning	
CIEP 479	School-Based Consultation	
CIEP 481	Prevention, Assessment & Intervention: Early Childhood	
<i>Women's Studies and Gender Studies</i>		
WSGS 402	Foundations of Women's Studies	
WSGS 450	Global Feminisms	

Comprehensive Examination

The doctoral qualifying exam is taken after the student has completed at least two full years in the graduate program. There are two parts: the Written Qualifying Exam, and the Oral Qualifying Exam. The qualifying examination is the final step before the student begins dissertation research. At this stage the student should have acquired considerable knowledge of the field of developmental psychology and of one or more specialty areas. Students will write a NIH-style grant proposal. Students can propose to write an NRSA or an alternative grant proposal

(e.g., NSF, Spencer), but whatever agency/proposal that will be pursued must be approved by their Research Mentor and the Graduate Program Director. The goal is to provide students with the opportunity to prepare a proposal for external funding, and also provide a written context for the subsequent Oral Qualifying Examination. The Oral Exam will require the student to place the work in a still larger context, such as discussion of the linkages to or implications for research and theory in various areas of social and cognitive development, social policy, and/or practice. The questions will not be provided to the student in advance of the exam

Thesis and Dissertation

The Master's thesis is an original research project, supervised by a Psychology Department faculty member, written up as a journal article and orally defended. Students who enter with advanced standing should check with the Graduate Program Director to determine if this requirement is met with previous master's degree.

The Dissertation is the product of a large-scale research endeavor undertaken with guidance and supervision of a faculty committee. A public oral defense of the dissertation is required, and after successful completion the final work will be deposited in a publicly available database in accordance with Graduate School policy.

Graduate & Professional Standards and Regulations

Students in graduate and professional programs can find their Academic Policies in Graduate and Professional Academic Standards and Regulations (<https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional-academic-standards-regulations/>) under their school. Any additional University Policies supercede school policies.

Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the PhD in Developmental Psychology will:

- Acquire broad understanding of psychological concepts, and advanced knowledge of the cognitive, cultural social-emotional, linguistic and neural factors that promote the learning and development of children and youth.
- Become versed in various data gathering methods, the ethical conduct of research, and the use of sophisticated statistical techniques.
- Conduct original research that contributes new knowledge and can ultimately support the healthy development of children, youth, and families.
- Learn about available research funding opportunities, and obtain experience with grant writing.
- Produce high quality oral and written presentations, including posters at conferences, and publications in peer-reviewed journals.