Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology: Major in Developmental Science

Developmental science is concerned with the description and explanation of change over time in humans and other organisms. The Developmental Science area integrates a life-span orientation toward developmental science in an international and interdisciplinary multicultural urban context. Students are expected to master a series of core course requirements designed to facilitate a thorough grounding in theory, methodology, and content in both basic and applied research in developmental science. A number of seminars reflecting the specialized foci of the program are also offered. Students have the opportunity to specialize in any phase of the lifespan or on any issues or topics that span phases of the lifespan and to focus on basic or applied research.

Students admitted to the program are expected to maintain full-time status throughout their four years in the doctoral program and to become involved in research at an early point in their graduate training by participating in faculty research projects and by carrying out individual research under the guidance of one or several faculty members. Students are also guided and encouraged to publish their individual research projects and to present their work at professional conferences. They are provided opportunities for teaching as part of their graduate training.

Admission Requirements*

To be admitted into the Developmental Science doctoral program, a student must:
1. Hold a Bachelor’s degree in a relevant discipline from an accredited college or university.
2. Have a 3.0 average or higher during the last two years of the undergraduate program and submit Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores.
3. Have completed an undergraduate or graduate research methods course as a prerequisite.
4. Arrange to have three letters of recommendation evaluating the applicant’s potential for graduate work sent to the Psychology Graduate Program Director.
5. Send a brief essay stating reasons for interest in the program and career goals to the Psychology Graduate Secretary.
6. Receive approval from the Departmental Graduate Education Committee.
7. International graduate student applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit a score for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). A total score of 92 on the iBT TOEFL (equivalent to 580 in the TOEFL) is required.

*These are minimum requirements. Admission is competitive.
Degree Requirements
The Ph.D. in Psychology requires a minimum of 75 semester credits of graduate work beyond the baccalaureate, including a dissertation based on the student’s original research. A maximum of 36 credits may be transferred from a completed masters degree program with the approval of the program director.

Required Courses
Developmental Science doctoral students are required to complete the 9 credits of departmental core course requirements established across majors in the Department, along with more specialized content courses and courses involving directed independent effort, as listed below:

1. Common core courses (9 credits comprised of the following Statistics/Methodology courses or other courses approved by the program director):
   - PSY 5939 Special Topics in Psychology: Quantitative Methods I
   - PSY 5939 Special Topics in Psychology: Quantitative Methods II
   - PSY 5246C: Multivariate Analysis in Applied Psychological Research

2. Developmental Science Theory and Methods Requirement (9 credits comprised of the following 3 credit courses):
   - DEP 5608 Theoretical Perspectives in Developmental Psychology
   - DEP 5796 Developmental Methods
   - PSY 5605: History & Systems

3. Development Science Breadth Requirement (3 credits drawn from the following list of 3 credit courses, or other courses approved by the program director):
   - DEP 5099 Proseminar in Infancy, Childhood, and Adolescence
   - DEP 5405 Proseminar in the Psychology of Adulthood and Aging
   - DEP 5936 Integrating Theory and Research in Developmental Science

4. Biological Breadth Requirement (3 credits drawn from the following list of 3 credit courses, or other courses approved by the program director):
   - DEP 5058 Bio-Behavioral Development
   - EXP 5667 Cognitive Neuroscience
5. Cognitive Breadth Requirement (3 credits drawn from the following list of 3 credit courses, or other courses approved by the program director):
   DEP 5065: Cognitive Development
   DEP 6645: Cognition and Language

6. Social Breadth Requirement (3 credits drawn from the following list of 3 credit courses, or other courses approved by the program director):
   DEP 5725 Seminar in Psychosocial Development
   DEP 7096 Seminar in Psychology of Life-Span Social Development
   SOP 5058 Proseminar in Social Psychology

7. Supervised research/independent study/field experience/internship courses (18 credits)

8. Electives (6 credits approved by the program director)

9. Master's Project (6 credits of supervised research)

10. Comprehensive exam

11. PSY 7980 Ph.D. Dissertation (15 credits)