

**THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (HDE) MAJOR**  
**College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences**  
**A Bachelor of Science Degree**

What are the developmental processes--the social, psychological, emotional, intellectual, and physical changes--that a person experiences over the span of a lifetime? How do human personality traits, values, intellectual skills, relationships, goals, and behaviors develop? What is the interrelationship between an individual's development and the family and the community? If these questions fascinate you, then perhaps a major in human development will also.

Students who major in Human Development at UC Davis complete a group of preparatory courses in anthropology, biological science, genetics, nutrition, physiology, psychology, statistics, and human development. Students in human development design their programs in consultation with a faculty member. Using a basic core of courses, students can study the social and the biological aspects of human development while emphasizing child or adult development. Students who anticipate exploring the biological aspects of Human Development or careers in the health sciences should include the prerequisites for the upper division biological sciences courses as part of the major.

The Human Development major emphasizes practical experience combined with theoretical knowledge. Students can gain field experiences with the age groups they have been studying about in the classrooms by interning in schools, early childhood education centers, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, probation offices, group foster homes, mental health clinics, convalescent homes, or tutoring disabled and bilingual students. They may also participate in study projects with people from different socio-economic and cultural backgrounds who function in a variety of institutional settings. The UC Davis Child and Family Studies Center, for example, is located on campus. It serves as a laboratory facility for students to observe and work with about 70 preschool children, aged 4 months to 6 years. Students working in the center have the opportunity to relate theory and practice, to develop personal competency, and to explore the profession.

The Human Development major provides a study of the biological and environmental influences on the growth and development of humans from birth through adulthood. The emphasis is on cognitive, social, and emotional growth in the context of the family and community. Human Development graduates fill a wide variety of positions in preschools, elementary and special educational settings, as well as governmental jobs related to child care, social policy, social welfare and recreation. Those who emphasize the biological aspect of human development can apply to medical school or prepare for other careers within the health sciences. Human Development prepares students to pursue advanced degrees in the behavioral sciences, education, child guidance, counseling, social welfare, health sciences, or further research in human development

## Potential Career Options for Human Development Students

### Teaching/Education

Teaching Credential (K-12)	Day Care Director/Administrator
School Planner/Administrator	Gifted Educator
Special Educator (emotional / physical disabilities)	Disabilities Specialist
Speech and Language Therapist	Community Educator
College/University Professor	Teaching foreign language/ ESL
Learning Disabilities Educator and Specialist	

### Research

Research in human development	Research in child development
Research in adolescence and/or family	Research in adult development/ aging
Research in neuropsychology or cognitive neuropsychology	

### Counseling or Clinical Psychology

Marriage, Family and Child Counselor	Child Psychologist
School Psychologist	Career Counselor
Guidance Counselor (e.g. High School, College)	Genetic Counselor

### Gerontology

Senior Activities Planner	Nursing Home Administrator
Elder Caretaker	

### Public Policy

Legal Advocate (Children, Families, Elders)	Public Policy Administrator
Lobbyist (e.g. Headstart, Children's Child Advocacy Organizations)	

### Public Service/Government/Law

Child Protective Services	Child Welfare
Juvenile justice	Public Health
Community Child Care Coordinator	Social Work
Non-Profit Child/Family Foundations	Public Relations
Program Evaluator	Social Services
Foster Care Administrator	Human Resources
Family Law Practice/ Mediation Counselor	Adoption Agencies

### Medical and Health Sciences

Nurse	Physical Therapist
Dentist	Midwife
Occupational Therapist	Physicians Assistant
Physician (e.g. Pediatrician, Family Practitioner, Geriatrician)	Nutritionist

**Need more information?  
Contact the Human and Community Development  
Advising Office  
Undergrad Advisor (530) 752-2244**