Developmental Science

Program and Application Information

Department Head: Dr. Joel Hektner
Graduate Coordinator: Dr. Elizabeth Blodgett Salafia
Email: elizabeth.salafia@ndsu.edu
Department Location: Evelyn Morrow Lebedeff Hall
Department Phone: (701) 231-8268
Department Web Site: www.ndsu.edu/hdfs/academic_programs_admission/graduate/ds/
Application Deadline: February 1
Degrees Offered: Ph.D.
Test Requirement: GRE-General
English Proficiency Requirements: TOEFL ibT 100 (subscores of at least 24 for speaking and 21 for writing); IELTS 7

Program Description

Developmental Science is an emerging approach to the study of human development that combines elements of more traditional approaches from the fields of Developmental Psychology and Human Development. Developmental Science entails the study of human development across the lifespan, integrating the biological, cognitive, and socioemotional underpinnings of development, and incorporating the familial, social, institutional and cultural contexts in which development occurs.

Admission Requirements

• Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
• GRE

For those entering with a Master’s degree:

• Master’s degree from accredited educational institution in child development, developmental psychology, human development, developmental science, or related area
• At least one course in statistics and one course in research methods, with a grade of B or higher
• Completion of an empirical Master’s thesis

For those entering with a Bachelor’s degree:

• Bachelor’s degree from accredited educational institution in child development, developmental psychology, human development, developmental science, or related area
• Statement of purpose should be 500 words or less and address the following:
  • How your interest in this field developed
  • Why you chose our program at NDSU
  • The experiences you have had (e.g. informal, academic, employment, volunteer) that you see as related to this graduate program or your professional goals
  • What your research interests are and how they might fit with the current research emphases in the department. If you have questions about this, the HDFS faculty research interests are described on the HDFS website (http://www.ndsu.edu/hdfs).
  • What your professional goals are and how this graduate program will help you accomplish your professional goals
• Curriculum vitae or resume
• Thesis or writing sample
• For non-native English speakers, TOEFL ibT score of at least 100 or IELTS score of at least 7
• Subscores on the TOEFL ibT are at least 24 for speaking and 21 for writing

Financial Assistance

All admitted students are awarded graduate assistantships, which provide a full tuition waiver plus a stipend.

Curriculum for students entering with a Bachelor’s degree (90 credits total)

• Students earn a Master’s degree after completing 30 credits, including the master’s thesis and master’s oral examination.
• All courses 3 credits unless otherwise noted.

### Didactic Core Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 703</td>
<td>Research Methods in Human Development and Family Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 705</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods in Developmental Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 802</td>
<td>Teaching Developmental Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 812</td>
<td>Advanced Human Development: Birth Through Childhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 814</td>
<td>Advanced Human Development: Adolescence Through Early Adulthood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 816</td>
<td>Advanced Human Development III: Middle through Late Adulthood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 854</td>
<td>Advanced Quantitative Methods in Developmental Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 856</td>
<td>Longitudinal Research Methods and Analysis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Electives

Must include 6 credits in didactic 700 or 800-level courses in HDFS or other departments, including at least one course from:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 824</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Socioemotional Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 825</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Cognitive Development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Non-didactic Courses

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 801</td>
<td>Graduate Orientation Seminar (1 credit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 805</td>
<td>Professional Development in Developmental Science (1 credit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 790</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar (to be taken 8 semesters 1 credit each)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Independent Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 793</td>
<td>Individual Study/Tutorial (22 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 798</td>
<td>Master's Thesis (6 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 899</td>
<td>Doctoral Dissertation (15 credits)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total Credits

**24**

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### Curriculum for students entering with a Master’s degree (60 credits total)

• Students may follow this track only if their Master’s degree and thesis was approved by the Developmental Science Committee upon admission.
• Additional coursework may be necessary to compensate for courses not taken.
• All courses 3 credits unless otherwise noted.

### Didactic Courses

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 802</td>
<td>Teaching Developmental Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 812</td>
<td>Advanced Human Development: Birth Through Childhood</td>
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<td>HDFS 814</td>
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Four more didactic 700-level courses; could be outside of HDFS (to be approved by committee)

### Electives—must include at least one course from:

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<td>Advanced Topics in Cognitive Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 826</td>
<td>700-level course in HDFS or other department</td>
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### Non-didactic Courses

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<td>Graduate Seminar (to be taken 5 semesters (1 credit each))</td>
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### Independent Research

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<td>HDFS 899</td>
<td>Doctoral Dissertation</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Total Credits

**60**
Other Requirements

- Teach one undergraduate course, with supervision (as part of assistantship or for course credit in HDFS 794 Practicum/Internship). Must have first taken HDFS 802 Teaching Developmental Science.
- Submit at least four proposal/abstracts for presentations or posters at national conferences, including as a co-presenter (2 submissions if enter with MS)
- Present (in person) at least twice at national conferences (once if enter with MS), unless a waiver is granted by the student’s committee.
- Submit at least two peer-reviewed articles for publication (including as co-author). Note: Although these presentation and publication requirements do not carry course credit per se, they are projects that would be worked on as part of HDFS 793 Individual Study/Tutorial, and/or HDFS 899 Doctoral Dissertation.
- Qualifying examination
- Dissertation

Core Faculty

Sean Brotherson, Ph.D.
Oregon State University, 2000
Research Interests: Parenting and Fatherhood; Healthy Marriages; Family Stress; Rural Families; Grief and Bereavement; Family Life Education; Family Policy

James E. Deal, Ph.D.
University of Georgia, 1987
Research Interests: Personality Development in Children; Relationship Between Individual Development and Family Relationships

Margaret Fitzgerald, Ph.D.
Iowa State University, 1997
Research Interests: Financial Counseling and Planning; Husbands and Wives Who Own and Operate Family Businesses Together; Family Business and Economically Vulnerable/Viable Communities; Gender and Management Issues In Family Business

Heather Fuller-Iglesias, Ph.D.
University of Michigan, 2009
Research Interests: Social Relationships Across the Lifespan (E.G. Intergenerational Relationships); Psychological Well-Being in Old Age; Culture and Aging; Migration, Transnationalism and Acculturation; Biculturalism

Joel Hektner, Ph.D.
University of Chicago, 1996
Research Interests: Aggressive Children; Research Methods; Prevention Programs For High-Risk Aggressive Children; Peer Affiliation Patterns and Peer Influences on Children's Behaviors; Family and School Conditions That Facilitate Optimal Experiences (Flow) and Optimal Development; The Experience Sampling Method

Melissa Lunsman O'Connor, Ph.D.
University of South Florida, 2010
Research Interests: Cognitive and Functional Aging in Healthy and Clinical Populations; Older Drivers; Research Methods; Attitudes toward Dementia

Brandy A. Randall, Ph.D.
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2002
Research Interests: Relational and Contextual Influences on Adolescents’ and Young Adults’ Positive and Problem Behaviors

Elizabeth Blodgett Salafia, Ph.D.
University of Notre Dame, 2008
Research Interests: Family and Peer Influences on Adolescents’Disordered Eating Attitudes and Behaviors

Rebecca Woods, Ph.D.
Texas A&M University, 2006
Research Interests: Perception and Cognition In Infancy; Object Processing; Multimodal Processing; Early Gender Differences

Affiliated Faculty with in HDFS

Kristen Benson, Ph.D.
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 2008
Research Interests: Gender Identity and Family/Partner Relationships, Diversity Issues in Family Therapy, Collaborative Approaches to Family Therapy Education and Training, and Qualitative Methodology

Christie McGeorge, Ph.D.
University of Minnesota, 2005
Research Interests: Heterosexism and Homophobia; Single Parenting; Women's History; Gender Socialization From a Feminist Perspective

Thomas Stone Carlson, Ph.D.
Iowa State University, 2000
Research Interests: Narrative Pedagogy; Relational Accountability Approach to Couples Therapy, LGBT Affirmative Therapy Competence Among Therapists, and Influence of Spirituality on Clinical Practice and Training

Affiliated Faculty outside of HDFS

Ben Balas, Ph.D.,
Psychology

Ardith Brunt, Ph.D.,
Health, Nutrition and Exercise Science

Ann Burnett, Ph.D.,
Women's Studies

Erin Conwell, Ph.D.,
Psychology

Donna Grandbois, Ph.D.,
Nursing

Daniel Klenow, Ph.D.,
Emergency Management

Linda Langley, Ph.D.,
Psychology

Susan Ray-Degges, Ph.D.,
Apparel, Design and Hospitality Management

Larry Reynolds, Ph.D.,
Animal Sciences

Greg Sanders, Ph.D.,
Human Development & Education

Molly Secor-Turner, Ph.D.,
Nursing

Kevin Thompson, Ph.D.,
Criminal Justice and Political Science

Wendy Troop-Gordon, Ph.D.,
Psychology

Kim Vonnahme, Ph.D.,
Animal Sciences

Rachelle Vettern, Ph.D.,
Center for 4-H Youth Development