

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

Department of Human Ecology; 1303 Hart Hall; 530-752-1805; Human Development (<https://humanecology.ucdavis.edu/academic-planning-resources/>), Faculty (<http://humanecology.ucdavis.edu/hdfs-faculty/>)

Human development explores the developmental process in humans throughout the life cycle. Biological, psychological, social, and contextual processes on development are studied. Students can choose emphases in Health and Well being across the Lifespan, or Children and Families across the Lifespan.

The Program

Human development majors complete a group of preparatory courses in anthropology, biology, philosophy, psychology, and statistics. Upper division students can design their programs to specialize in one of two track areas. For instance, students can study either Health and Well being, or Children and Families, both of these tracks emphasize a lifespan developmental approach. Students can also pursue the general Human Development track which broadly exposes students to multiple influences on individual development and family processes.

Internships & Career Alternatives

At least one practicum course is required. A second practicum or supervised internship can be used to fulfill the restricted elective requirement for the major. In addition, students can intern in schools, early childhood education or senior centers, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, probation offices, group foster homes, mental health clinics, or as tutors for handicapped or bilingual students. Human development graduates fill a wide variety of positions in preschools, elementary and special educational settings, programs designed for parents, families, and the elderly, as well as governmental jobs related to social services for people of all ages. Students who choose the Health & Well being track can apply to medical school or pursue training for positions in the health sciences. Human development prepares students to pursue advanced degrees in behavioral and social sciences, education, social work, family law, or health sciences.

Preparatory Requirements

UC Davis students who wish to change their major to Human Development must be in good academic standing. Students must complete the following courses with a combined grade point average of at least 2.500. All of the following courses must be taken for a letter grade:

Code	Title	Units
PSC 001 or PSC 001V	General Psychology	4
Choose one:		4
STA 013 or STA 013Y	Elementary Statistics	
PSC 041 or PSC 041V	Research Methods in Psychology	
Choose one:		4-5
ANT 001	Human Evolutionary Biology	

or ANT 001Y (DI)	
ANT 002	Cultural Anthropology
ANT 015	From Birth to Death: The Evolution of the Human Life Cycle
Choose one:	5-3
BIS 002A	Introduction to Biology: Essentials of Life on Earth
BIS 010	Everyday Biology
MMG 010 or MIC 010	Natural History of Infectious Diseases
NPB 010	Elementary Human Physiology
NPB 012	The Human Brain & Disease
NPB 101	Systemic Physiology
PSC 101	Introduction to Biological Psychology

Students must have achieved a 2.000 GPA in any required upper division courses taken prior to declaring the major.

All courses satisfying the Preparatory Subject Matter, Depth Subject Matter, Restricted Electives and Human Development Major English Coursework Requirement must be taken for a letter grade.

Lead Faculty Advisor

Leah Hibel

Graduate Study

Graduate study is available through a Master of Science degree in child development, and a Ph.D. degree in human development. See also Graduate Studies (<http://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/>).

The major requirements below are in addition to meeting University Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/university-degree-requirements/>) & College Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/college-degree-requirements/>); unless otherwise noted. The minimum number of units required for the Human Development Bachelor of Science major is 90.

Code	Title	Units
Preparatory Subject Matter		
<i>Anthropology</i>		
Choose one:		4-5
ANT 001 or ANT 001Y DIS	Human Evolutionary Biology	
ANT 002	Cultural Anthropology	
ANT 015	From Birth to Death: The Evolution of the Human Life Cycle	
<i>Biology</i>		
Choose two:		6-10
BIS 002A	Introduction to Biology: Essentials of Life on Earth	
BIS 010	Everyday Biology	
BIS 101 or BIS 101V	Genes & Gene Expression	
MCB 010	Introduction to Human Heredity	
MMG 010 or MIC 010 DISCONTINUED FOR FALL 2026 **		
NPB 010	Elementary Human Physiology	

NPB 012	The Human Brain & Disease	
NPB 101	Systemic Physiology	
PSC 101	Introduction to Biological Psychology	
<i>Philosophy</i>		
Choose two:		8
PHI 005	Critical Reasoning	
PHI 015	Introduction to Bioethics	
PHI 030	Introduction to Philosophy of Science	
PHI 031	Appraising Scientific Reasoning	
PHI 032	Understanding Scientific Change	
PHI 038	Introduction to Philosophy of Biology	
<i>Psychology</i>		
PSC 001	General Psychology	4
or PSC 001V	General Psychology	
or PSC 001Y	General Psychology	
<i>Statistics</i>		
Choose one:		4
PSC 041	Research Methods in Psychology	
or PSC 041V	Research Methods in Psychology	
STA 013	Elementary Statistics	
or STA 013Y	Elementary Statistics	
Preparatory Subject Matter Subtotal		26-31
Depth Subject Matter		
<i>Life Span</i>		
HDE 100A	Infancy & Early Childhood	4
or HDE 100AV	Infancy & Early Childhood	
HDE 100B	Middle Childhood & Adolescence	4
or HDE 100BV	Middle Childhood & Adolescence	
HDE 100C	Adulthood & Aging	4
<i>Research Methods</i>		
HDE 120	Research Methods in Human Development	5
<i>Practicum</i>		
Choose one:		4-6
HDE 140L	(May only be taken for 4 units; Discontinued for summer 2025) **	
HDE 141	Field Study With Children & Adolescents	
HDE 142	Field Study with Emotionally Distressed Children & Adolescents	
HDE 143	Field Studies of the Elderly	
<i>Area of Specialization (Tracks)</i>		
Choose one track, and take three courses within that track; see track options below:		12
Health & Wellbeing (p. 2)		
Children & Families Across the Lifespan (p. 3)		
General HDE; choose any three upper division HDE courses. These courses cannot overlap with the depth subject.		
<i>Restricted Electives</i>		
Choose additional upper division courses for 19-20 units from a list of restricted electives related to your track in consultation with faculty advisor.		19-20
Depth Subject Matter Subtotal		52-55
Human Development English Coursework Requirement		

Choose three courses in English Composition; at least one must
be upper division: ¹ 12

CMN 001	Introduction to Public Speaking
or CMN 001V	Introduction to Public Speaking
COM 001	Major Works of the Ancient World
COM 002	Major Works of the Medieval & Early Modern World
COM 003	Major Works of the Modern World
COM 004	Major Works of the Contemporary World
ENL 003	Introduction to Literature
or ENL 003V	Introduction to Literature
NAS 005	Introduction to Native American Literature
or NAS 005V	Introduction to Native American Literature
UWP 001	Introduction to Academic Literacies
or UWP 001V	Introduction to Academic Literacies: Online
or UWP 001Y	Introduction to Academic Literacies
UWP 048	Style in the Essay
UWP 049	Writing Research Papers

Choose at least one:

UWP 101	Advanced Composition
or UWP 101V	Advanced Composition
or UWP 101Y	Advanced Composition
Any of UWP 102 Series (https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/uwp/)	
Any of UWP 104 Series (https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/uwp/)	

The Upper Division Composition Exam does not satisfy the
requirement.

Human Development English Coursework Requirement Subtotal 12

Total Units 90-98

¹

Advanced Placement English score of 4 or 5 which satisfies ENL 003 and/
or UWP 001 will satisfy one of the three required courses.

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Course(s) discontinued; see your advisor for course options.

Health & Wellbeing Area of Specialization

Code	Title	Units
Choose three:		
HDE 131	Thriving Across the Lifespan	
or HDE 131V	Thriving Across the Lifespan	
HDE 133	Stress, Adversity & Resilience	
or HDE 133V	Stress, Adversity & Resilience	
HDE 135	Health Behaviors Across the Lifespan	
or HDE 135V	Health Behaviors Across the Lifespan	
HDE 137	Contextual Determinants of Health	
HDE 180	Special Topics in Human Development	

Children & Families Across the Lifespan

Area of Specialization

Code	Title	Units
Choose three:		
HDE 104	Children in Families, Schools, Communities	
HDE 110	Families in Communities	
or HDE 110V	Families in Communities	
HDE 111	Family Stress & Resilience	
HDE 112	Social Relationships Across the Lifespan	
HDE 180	Special Topics in Human Development	