

MEd in Youth Development

Admission Requirements

Applicants are considered on an individual basis. Transcripts of all undergraduate and any graduate work must be submitted. In addition to the Graduate College minimum requirements, applicants must meet the following program requirements:

- **Baccalaureate Field** No restrictions. Previous coursework in psychology preferred.
- **Grade Point Average** At least 2.75/4.00 for the final 60 semester (90 quarter) hours of undergraduate study and a 3.00/4.00 grade point average for all postbaccalaureate or graduate coursework combined.
- **Tests Required** None.
- **Minimum English Competency Test Score**
 - **TOEFL iBT** 80, with subscores of Reading 19, Listening 17, Speaking 20, and Writing 21 (**Note:** Total score is higher than the sum of the subscores), **OR**,
 - **IELTS Academic** 6.5, with 6.0 in each of the four subscores, **OR**,
 - **PTE-Academic** 54, with subscores of Reading 51, Listening 47, Speaking 53, and Writing 56.
- **Letters of Recommendation** Three letters of recommendation are required.
- **Personal Statement** This required statement must address the applicant's previous experiences working with youth, specifically work with youth in urban contexts, as well as professional and scholarly goals.
- **Admission Deadlines** [Application deadlines](#) for this program are listed on the Graduate College website.

Degree Requirements

In addition to the Graduate College minimum requirements, students must meet the following program requirements:

- **Minimum Semester Hours Required** 32 beyond the baccalaureate: at least 9 hours must be at the 500 level, excluding independent study and thesis courses. At least 24 hours must be earned as a degree candidate at UIC.
- Only 400- and 500-level courses can be applied to the degree. Credit toward the degree is only given for courses in which a student received a grade of A, B, C, CR, or S.
- **Coursework**

Coursework for Applied Strand Track

Code	Title	Hours
Developmental Theory Core (minimum of 7 hours)		
EPSY 517	Seminar in Urban Youth Development	
Select one of the following:		
EPSY 420	Advanced Social Development of Children in an Urban Context	
EPSY 429	Constructivist Approaches to Development: Piaget and Vygotsky	
EPSY 446	Characteristics of Early Adolescence	
EPSY 525	Advanced Adolescent Development	

ED 421	Advanced Educational Psychology
ED 422	Advanced Developmental Psychology and Educational Processes
ED 445	Adolescence and the Schools
Research and Methodology Core (minimum of 9 hours)	
Select three of the following:	
ED 501	Data and Interpretation in Educational Inquiry
ED 502	Essentials of Qualitative Inquiry in Education
EDPS 480	Youth Culture Community Organizing and Education
EDPS 587	Methods of Case Study Research
EPSY 414	Developing Programs For Youth
EPSY/SPED 482	Collaborating with Families, Community, and Professionals
EPSY 503	Essentials of Quantitative Inquiry in Education
EPSY 509	Research Design in Education
EPSY 560	Educational Program Evaluation
Other courses as approved by advisor	

Electives (9 hours)

Determined in conjunction with advisor

Coursework for the Thesis Track

Code	Title	Hours
Developmental Theory Core (minimum of 6 hours)		
Select two of the following:		
EPSY 420	Advanced Social Development of Children in an Urban Context	
EPSY 429	Constructivist Approaches to Development: Piaget and Vygotsky	
EPSY 446	Characteristics of Early Adolescence	
EPSY 517	Seminar in Urban Youth Development	
EPSY 525	Advanced Adolescent Development	
ED 421	Advanced Educational Psychology	
ED 422	Advanced Developmental Psychology and Educational Processes	
ED 445	Adolescence and the Schools	
Research and Methodology Core (minimum of 12 hours)		
EPSY 509	Research Design in Education	
Select additional courses from the following:		
ED 501	Data and Interpretation in Educational Inquiry	
ED 502	Essentials of Qualitative Inquiry in Education	
EDPS 587	Methods of Case Study Research	
EPSY 503	Essentials of Quantitative Inquiry in Education	
EPSY 560	Educational Program Evaluation	
Other courses as approved by advisor		
Electives (9 hours)		
Determined in conjunction with advisor		

Other Requirements

- **Comprehensive Examination** None required.
- **Culminating Experience** Required.
 - *Culminating Experience for the Applied Strand (7 hours):* Required: EPSY 518 and EPSY 528. Students in the Applied Strand earn 7 hours and complete a minimum of two semesters of fieldwork in a youth service organization or an approved program aimed at promoting positive development among youth. The student's advisor should approve the fieldwork site prior to work beginning at the site. As part of the two-semester course sequence, students will complete a comprehensive professional practice portfolio related to their fieldwork and developed in conjunction with their advisor. Students are required to present their portfolio to their professional practice community at the culmination of EPSY 528.
 - *Culminating Experience for the Thesis Strand (5 hours):* In accordance with Graduate College guidelines, students electing to complete a thesis must earn a minimum of 5 hours in thesis research (EPSY 598). Students earning 5 hours may write a literature review of publishable quality on a chosen thesis topic or conduct a secondary data analysis to explore a research question related to a chosen thesis topic. Students who elect to conduct an original study on chosen thesis topic must complete 8 hours of thesis research. Once the student has completed all graduation requirements and is in good academic standing, s/he must defend the thesis before a committee appointed by the dean of the Graduate College on the recommendation of the student's department or program. Not more than one fail vote by the committee is allowed for approval of the thesis.

Interdepartmental Concentrations

Students earning a graduate degree in this department may complement their courses by enrolling in select concentrations after consulting with their graduate advisor. Interdepartmental concentrations available for this degree include:

- [Black Studies](#)
- [Survey Research Methodology](#)
- [Violence Studies](#)