Department of Educational Psychology

Contact Information:
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education.uic.edu/academics/programs/human-development-learning/

Administration:
Department Chair, Dr. Michael Thomas
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The undergraduate program of the Department of Educational Psychology, the Bachelor of Arts in Human Development and Learning (HDL) focuses on the natural intersectionality of human development and learning and the importance of understanding these processes as embedded in social structures, contexts, and diverse cultures.

BA in Human Development and Learning

The BA in Human Development and Learning (HDL) is appropriate for students who have an interest working with individuals from infancy to adulthood and from diverse groups and/or communities. In addition, the program has an emphasis on preparing graduates with the ability to create optimal conditions for learning and development in a variety of formal and informal educational environments.

The BA Human Development and Learning program grounds students in the theory and research that will enable them to work with individuals from diverse backgrounds and in a variety of formal and informal learning contexts and educational environments. Human development and human learning are complex and inter-related phenomena that are embedded within particular social, historical, and cultural contexts that not only shape and direct the course of learning and development, but are linked to an individual’s overall success, achievement, productivity, and ability to thrive.

This undergraduate program equips graduates with the skills and knowledge necessary to work in and design effective and high quality informal learning environments and programs that take into account how diverse individuals learn and how that learning is impacted by developmental changes in key areas such as cognition, identity, and language. HDL graduates will have a deep understanding of how biological, contextual, institutional, structural and cultural factors affect individuals’ developmental trajectories and the implications of this for working with people in a variety of contexts. Whether students are interested in working with young children, adolescents, or adults, the BA degree in Human Development and Learning will prepare them for a career that involves working with people to ensure their optimal development and learning.

Admissions Requirements for First Year Students

The BA in Human Development and Learning program has adopted the university’s admissions requirements as listed in the Admissions section of the catalog under First Year Applicant and adheres to the campus policy on transfer students.

Degree Program

• BA in Human Development and Learning

Minor

• Minor in Instructional Design and Training