Why Human Development?

Are you interested in understanding human behavior, in learning how people relate to one another and about how to make a difference in their lives? Then consider majoring in Human Development. As an HDP major, you will learn about how individuals develop and change from birth to old age, how families and communities influence these processes, and how to apply this knowledge in order to develop, implement and evaluate interventions designed to improve people’s lives.

The HDP major provides a foundation for students interested in working in human services with many different types of people—from infants to the elderly—and in many different settings from public and non-profit agencies to business and government. We prepare students to become leaders in human services, to develop new models for preventing and treating social and mental health problems and to become advocates for new social programs and policies. The HDP major is also excellent preparation for graduate school in the social, behavioral, and health sciences or for advanced professional training in clinical and counseling psychology, marriage and family therapy, social work, law, business, medicine and other health professions.

Careers

Career options within HDP are diverse. The proper combination of academic preparation, internship, and work experience will prepare an HDP graduate in many fields, including:

- Health and Medicine
- Therapy and Rehabilitation
- Behavioral Health
- Social Services
- Public Policy
- Communication and Marketing
- Further Education & Graduate School

For more information, please visit: http://hdp.ucsd.edu/undergraduate-program/career-information/index.html
Human Development Major

Curriculum

HDP Core Series (4 upper-division courses)
- Biological Basis of Human Development
- Social-Cognitive Basis of Human Development
- Linguistic Basis of Human Development
- Socio-cultural Basis of Human Development

HDP Development Series (5 upper-division courses)
Courses selected from Biological Development, Cognitive & Language Development, and Socio-Cultural Development (at least one from each category).

Senior Seminar (1 upper-division course)
Special topics seminars, providing advanced-level study on subfields of human development (must be taken in-residence).

HDP Methods of Research (2-3 upper-division courses)
Courses designed to introduce students to the philosophy and methods of developmental research in both laboratory and real-world settings (HDP 181 and 191 must be taken in residence).

Prerequisite Coursework
A total of seven screening courses are required for the Bachelor of Arts. Eight courses are required for the Bachelor of Science. For a complete list of courses, please review our major handouts or visit our website at hdp.ucsd.edu

Hands-On Learning
Our experiential learning courses promote research and practice in the service of individuals and the greater community. The site partnerships developed for these courses give our students the opportunity for practical application of their studies within a fieldwork setting, while simultaneously allowing them to explore various careers. Potential sites include clinical settings, social service organizations, and educational programs.