

Recommendations for a Sequence of Developmental Psychology Courses (updated September 6, 2017)

The curriculum for the Psychology Major includes courses that concentrate on developmental psychology, including infant, child, adolescent, and lifespan development. The field of Developmental Psychology draws from all of the other sub-fields of Psychology, such as Cognitive, Social, Neuroscience, etc., and makes use of all of their techniques. We strongly recommend that students participate in undergraduate research experiences whenever possible.

Potential career paths of Psychology majors who pursue coursework in developmental psychology include: Psychologist (Clinical, Counseling, Forensic, School, and others); Researcher (Academic and non-academic); Health (pediatrician, nurse, physician assistant, OT, PT, pharmacist, dentist, and others); Education (teacher, special educator, administrator, school psychologist, speech therapist, OT, and others); Social Work; Law; Child and Family Policy; and others.

The list of courses, and the 4-year sequence of enrollment below are provided as guidance. While some courses are taught almost every year, others are offered less frequently. In addition to the core developmental psychology courses, there are a number of related courses that might be relevant to those with specific interest in developmental psychology, and these are also listed below.

REQUIREMENTS for PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR

To earn a BA in Psychology (detail at <http://psychology.as.virginia.edu/undergraduate-handbook>), students must complete 30 credits in PSYC courses, including at least one course from Introductory courses in Groups I, II and III, Research Methods (PSYC 3005 and PSYC3006), 2 courses at the 3000-level or higher (including 1 at the 4000- or 5000-level). The remainder of credits can be completed by enrolling to any other PSYC courses.

INTRODUCTORY COURSES (These may also satisfy the Introductory Course requirements for the Major.):

PSYC 2700 Introduction to Child Psychology (possibly including 1-unit discussion)

MID-LEVEL COURSES: At least one is recommended.

PSYC 3235 Introduction to Epigenetics
PSYC 3435 Educational Psychology
PSYC 3440 Child Psychopathology
PSYC 3460 Psychological Study of Children, Families, and the Law
PSYC 3480 Adolescence: Theory and Development
PSYC 3490 Infant Development

SEMINAR COURSES:

PSYC 4130 Risk and Resilience Among Marginalized Adolescents
PSYC 4255 Behavioral Epigenetics
PSYC 4330 Topics in Child Development
PSYC 4600 Attachment and Social Development
PSYC 4604 Family Relations
PSYC 4870 The Minority Family: A Psychological Inquiry

UPPER LEVEL SEMINARS / GRADUATE COURSES:

PSYC 5305 Moral Development
PSYC 5320 Theories of Cognitive Development
PSYC 5559 The Social Brain in Infancy

ADDITIONAL COURSES RELEVANT TO DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC 3485/3495 Science & Lived Experience of Autism I and II
 PSYC 4105 Cognitive Psychology and American Education
 PSYC 4155 Autism: From Neurons to Neighborhoods
 PSYC 4603 Psychology of Sexual Orientation
 PSYC 5328 Cognitive Aging
 PSYC 5355 Neurobiology of Speech and Language

RECOMMENDED COURSE SEQUENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT TRACK

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
PSYC 2700			
Groups I and II Psychology courses; Other College Requirements			
	PSYC3005 and PSYC3006		
	3000-level developmental courses		
		At least one 4000-level seminar in developmental psychology	
			4000+ seminars in developmental and/or related areas
	Research in Developmental Psychology		
			Distinguished Majors