CHILDREN’S STUDIES

Undergraduate Programs

The Interdisciplinary Children’s Studies majors provide students with a strong holistic background in the study of children (birth to adolescence) in a variety of social contexts. Theory and practice from the disciplines of Sociology, Psychology, and Education form the basis for this integrated curriculum. The BA Options A, B, and C provide an opportunity for all students to develop a foundational and global perspective of children and childhood. Included in the program requirements is the course CDST 101, which must be taken as a prerequisite to the sociology courses found within the Children’s Studies Major. This course may be used to fulfill the requirements for one General Education Course Requirement (gecr) but may not be counted twice toward the 180 credits required to graduate. In addition, EDUC 325, which makes up part of the Children’s Studies core, may be used to fulfill the requirement for the Culture and Gender Diversity requirement.

Bachelor of Arts (BA)

Student Learning Outcomes—students will:

- demonstrate knowledge in addressing children’s lives and experiences from a variety of disciplines;
- demonstrate an understanding of children’s diversity;
- critically evaluate a variety of approaches in working with children and reflect on their own practices and interactions with children;
- design curricula that addresses children’s individuality in different types of interactions and contexts;
- demonstrate effective practices in working with children and child service organizations, which include knowledge of content area, problem solving, use of technology, opportunity for choice, motivation, collaboration, and respect for diversity;
- communicate effectively with all constituencies, including children, parents, colleagues, and community members; and demonstrate professional leadership in the field.

Children’s Studies Major

Note: two years of a single high school foreign language or one year of a single college level foreign language is required.

Required Core Courses (34–35 credits)

CDST 301 Introduction to Children’s Studies (2)
CDST 492 Senior Portfolio (2)
EDUC 325 Inequalities and Impacts on Educational Equity (4)
GEOG 357 Geography of Childhood (3)
PSYC 305 Child and Adolescent Development (4)
SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology (5)
SOC 483 Sociology of Children (5)

Core Electives (4 credits minimum)

CDST 402 Children’s Rights (5)
CDST 411 Child Life Theory (5)
CDST 412 Health and Children (5)
CDST 413 Media and Children (5)
CDST 421 Play and Playwork (4)
CDST 422 Children’s Loss and Grief (4)
CDST 439 Topics in Children’s Studies (1–5)

Choose one of the following:

Practicum/Internship/Seminar courses (3–4 credits)

CDST 495 Internship (4)
EDUC 457 Collaborative Reflective Practice in Early Childhood Education (3)
PSYC 495 Experiential Learning (4)

Capstone (4 credits)

CDST 490 Senior Capstone: Children’s Studies (4)

Total minimum required core credits, including practicum/internship and capstone 41–43 credits

Degree Options—choose one of the three options for the BA.

Option A—Research in Children’s Studies

The Research in Children’s Studies option is designed for those undergraduate students who plan to do graduate work or who wish to work in agencies or organizations that need data collection and assessment.

Required Core Credits (41–43)

Required Courses (15–18 credits)

Theory (5–8 credits)

CSBS 310 Foundations of Social and Behavioral Science Theory (5)
or PSYC 315 Human Relations (4)
and PSYC 320 Developmental Theories and Applications (4)

Statistics (5 credits)

CSBS 320 Introductory Statistics for the Social Sciences (5)

Research Methods (4–5 credits)

CDST 330 Research Methods for Studying Children and Childhood (4)
PSYC 309 Scientific Principles of Psychology (5)
PSYC 313 Research Methods in Psychology (5)

Electives (1–5 credits)

Elective credits, including CDST 499, as approved by major advisor.

Minimum total credits for above major with option: 60 credits

Option B—Programming in Children’s Studies

The Programming in Children’s Studies option allows students to develop an enhanced and broadened perspective about children so they can have the flexibility to work with children in social service agencies and other child focused programs.

Required Core Credits (41–43)

Required Courses (8 credits)

PSYC 315 Psychology of Human Relations (4)
PSYC 324 Conditioning and Learning (4)

Electives: choose from the following (9 credits minimum) cross-listed

AAST 320 African American Family (5)
EDUC 455 Perspectives of Early Childhood Education (3)
EDUC 480 Educating Young Children with Diverse Backgrounds (3)
ENGL 323 A Global View through Children’s Literature (5)
EDUC 323
MGMT 326 Organization Theory and Behavior (4)
PSYC 402 Behavior Modification (4)
PSYC 476 Child and Family Guidance (4)
RCLS 260 Arts in Recreation (3)
RCLS 385 Programming in Recreation and Leisure Services (3)
SOC 452 Juvenile Delinquency (5)
SOC 463 Complex Organizations (5)
SOWK 471 Human Rights and Women’s Rights (4)
SOWK 492 Child Welfare Programs and Services (5)

Minimum total credits for above major with option: 60 credits

Option C—Early Childhood through Children’s Studies

The Early Childhood through Children’s Studies option allows students to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Children’s Studies with a focus on the development, learning, and environments of young children.

Required Core Credits (41–43)

Required Courses (19 credits)

EDUC 455 Perspectives of Early Childhood Education (3)
EDUC 456 Integrated Early Childhood Practices (5)
EDUC 458 Learning Paradigm in Early Childhood Education (5)
EDUC 479 Early Literacy (3)
EDUC 480 Educating Young Children with Diverse Backgrounds (3)

Minimum total credits for above major: 60 credits
Children’s Studies Courses

Terms offered: check with the department or EagleNET.

CDST 301 Introduction to Children’s Studies (2)
Students will be introduced to the history of Children’s Studies and the guiding framework or philosophy. They will also have the opportunity to learn how to develop a professional growth plan and to construct and assess their knowledge through the development of portfolios.

CDST 330 Research Methods for Studying Children and Childhood (4)
This course introduces students to research that helps us understand children’s lives and experiences. The course examines core research methods, multicultural philosophies and ethical considerations given the power dynamics between adult researchers and child subjects. Students become familiar with scientific methods as applied in research with children, including methods for data collection and skills in analytic techniques.

CDST 402 Children’s Rights (5)
Prerequisite: CDST 301.
This course provides an extended examination of children’s rights, in both national and global contexts. Students are introduced to the history of the children’s rights movement, the development and impact of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and various theories, perspectives and issues within the children’s rights field.

CDST 411 Child Life Theory (5)
Prerequisite: CDST 301.
This course involves the careful examination of children and their families in a healthcare setting. It is taught from the perspective of a Child Life Specialist to aid in minimizing the stress and anxiety experienced during hospitalization. It focuses on educational and play components, and the general support and scope of practice unique to the field.

CDST 412 Health and Children (5)
Prerequisite: CDST 301.
This course introduces concepts and issues in the area of children’s health. Using a holistic framework, the course examines the wellbeing of children, including their physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual growth and development. The course covers programmatic strategies, social and family support, community practice models and policy that address issues such as child welfare, nutrition and safety management.

CDST 413 Media and Children (5)
Prerequisite: CDST 301.
This course focuses on the developmental impacts that modern media has on children and adolescents. Exploration of media covers such issues as advertising, violence, video games, sexuality, drugs, body image, eating disorders, music and the Internet. Students research problems and beneficial aspects of media.

CDST 421 Play and Playwork (4)
Prerequisite: CDST 301.
Students research definitions, history, theories, forms and functions of play. Students examine the different environments for play throughout history. Topics include free play, value of toys and games, children’s digital play, and the roles of creativity and marketing in today’s society.

CDST 422 Children’s Loss and Grief (4)
Prerequisite: CDST 301.
This course explores the ways children experience loss, including death, at different developmental stages and how different cultures view children’s grief. The course introduces students to a variety of organizational situations where adults work with children who are experiencing loss and grief.

CDST 439 Topics in Children’s Studies (5)
Note: may be repeated for credit, providing the title is different.
This variable topic course explores current issues and interests in the field of children’s studies. Topics might include children’s studies perspectives on contemporary issues, current research issues of specific faculty or deeper investigation of topics covered in core courses. Topics or issues that might be covered in this course range from play to children’s activism.

CDST 490 Senior Capstone: Children’s Studies (5)
Prerequisite: senior standing or approval of instructor.
Satisfies: senior capstone university graduation requirement.
This course is designed to move from basic understandings of children’s studies and the multiple disciplines from which it emerges to an integrated and unified interdisciplinary understanding. Integration of learning will be facilitated through service learning or community-based research projects in collaboration with local organizations that address children’s issues.

CDST 492 Children’s Studies Senior Portfolio (2)
Prerequisite: senior standing or approval of instructor.
Building on the portfolio process, students will develop and present an exit portfolio. This process will include identifying personal and career objectives; discussing content; developing themes; choosing formats; and revising personal statements, narrative and résumés. Exit portfolios will be used for program assessment.

CDST 495 Children’s Studies Internship (1–10)
Prerequisite: senior standing or approval of instructor.
Students receive academic credit for internships supervised within organizations working with or for children. The internship is initiated by the student and facilitated by their academic advisor, their site supervisor and the Career Services Internship Office. Students complete a Learning Contract, which outlines expectations, roles and responsibilities, as well as the process of documentation and evaluation.

What’s done to children, they will do to society.—Karl A. Menninger, psychiatrist (22 Jul 1893-1990)