Information for Child & Adolescent Development Majors

Child & Adolescent Development (CHAD) Program at CSUSM

The CHAD major in the Psychology Department focuses on the scientific study of developmental processes that occur from conception through the end of adolescence. CHAD classes focus on research in developmental science. CHAD graduates receive an excellent foundation for subsequent careers working with children and adolescents in various fields.

Major Requirements

Lower Division Requirements (15 units)
- PSYC 100 Introduction to Psychology
- PSYC 210 Child Growth & Development
- PSYC 215 Child, Family, & Community
- PSYC 220 Introduction to Statistics in Psychology
- PSYC 230 Research Methods in Psychology

Language Proficiency (0-9 units)
This requirement can be met in one of eight ways. See CHAD Major Worksheet on website.

Required Core Courses (18 units)
- PSYC 331 Infancy & Childhood
- PSYC 349 Adolescence: Theories & Research
- CHAD 370 Risk & Resiliency in Childhood/Adolescence
- PSYC 395 Laboratory in Developmental Psychology
- CHAD 491 Children, Adolescents, & Social Policy
- CHAD 496 Observation & Assessment Lab

Minimum Grade of “C”
You must earn a grade of “C” or higher in every course in order to count it toward the major.
If you earn a “C-” or lower, you will have to repeat the course.

Upper Division Requirements (15 units)
Select 1 course to fulfill each of the clusters:
- Cluster A Atypical Child & Adolescent Development
- Cluster B Contexts of Child & Adolescent Development
- Cluster C Understanding Others
- Cluster D Intrapersonal Development
- Cluster E Research/Working with Children & Adolescents

Breadth Requirement (3 units)
The course you choose for your UDG&E area DD (social science) course cannot be a Psychology or CHAD course - it must be a course outside of our department.

Transfer Students!
Will your transfer courses meet the lower-division requirements for the major?
For articulation with community colleges, visit www.assist.org

Setting Yourself Up for Success
- Plan to spend at least 8 hours per week for each 3-unit course. For a full load of 5 classes, this is a minimum of 40 hours per week devoted to school. Consider taking 4 to 5 classes for school-work-life balance and staying on track to graduate by taking courses in summer sessions.
- Stay connected and gain assistance by visiting your professors’ office hours, get assistance with statistics or research by visiting PARL, and get involved in university and department activities.

Background Check Requirement
CHAD 496 will take place at a setting that requires background checks including: (1) fingerprinting and background check through LIVESCAN, (2) Tuberculosis test, (3) Proof of MMR immunity, (4) Tdap immunization, (5) Flu shot. This process must be completed no later than 6 weeks before the start of the semester in which a student enrolls in CHAD 496.

Helpful Resources
CHAD Program website, http://www.csusm.edu/chad
Psychology Dept. website, https://www.csusm.edu/psychology
Psychology Academic Resource Library (PARL), https://www.csusm.edu/psychology/currentstudents/parl.html
CSUSM Student Resources & Services, https://www.csusm.edu/students

Poster created by Dr. Janice N. Phung, Psychology Department