

California State University, Long Beach 2025-2026 Undergraduate and Graduate Catalog

Courses

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Child Development and Family Studies

CDFS 111 - Child Growth and Development

(3 units)

Examination of the progression of children's physical, cognitive, language, socio-emotional development from conception through childhood, with emphasis on interactions between biological processes and environmental factors. Students will apply developmental theories to observe children and analyze the characteristics of individual development.

Both grading options. (Lecture-discussion 3 hours)

CDFS 211 - Principles and Practices of Teaching Young Children

(3 units)

Prerequisites: A grade of "C" or better in [PSY 100](#)
or [SOC 100](#)
or [CDFS 111](#)

and CDFS majors, pre-majors and minors and FLE majors only.

Examination of the teacher role in supporting young children's learning and development via caring relationships and effective learning environments. Students will identify child guidance models, collaboration systems, and pedagogical approaches that address the developmental needs of diverse children and families.

Both grading options. (Lecture-discussion 3 hours)

CDFS 214 - Introduction to Curriculum for Preschool Children

(3 units)

Prerequisites: A grade of "C" or better in [CDFS 111](#)
and CDFS majors, pre-majors and minors only.

Introduction to preschool curriculum. Overview of developmental stages of childhood, theories of learning and development, and models of developmentally appropriate practice that are integral to planning effective curriculum and classroom environments.

Letter grade only (A-F). (Lecture-discussion 3 hours)

CDFS 215 - Introduction to Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers

(3 units)

Prerequisites: A grade of "C" or better in [CDFS 111](#)

. CDFS majors, pre-majors and minors only.

Introduction to infant-toddler curriculum. Overview of developmental stages of infancy and toddlerhood, theories of learning and development, and models of developmentally appropriate practice that are integral to planning effective curriculum and caregiving environments.

Letter grade only (A-F). (Lecture-discussion 3 hours)

CDFS 310 - Diversity in Child Development

(3 units)

Prerequisites: Completion of at least 60 units, completion of the entire Foundation, and completion of at least one GE Course from the Explorations stage

A critical examination of social, cultural, and environmental factors and their impact on diversity in child development and family life from strength-based sociocultural perspectives.

Both grading options. (Lecture-discussion 3 hours)

CDFS 311 - Prenatal Development, Infancy and Toddlerhood

(3 units)

Prerequisites: A grade of "C" or better in [CDFS 111](#)

. CDFS majors & minors, FLE majors, and HDEV majors only.

Examination of the progression of children's physical, perceptual, cognitive/language, social/emotional development from conception through toddlerhood, with emphasis on interactions between biological processes and environmental factors. Students will be introduced to developmental theories and current issues concerning pregnancy, infancy, and toddlerhood.

Both grading options. (Lecturer-discussion 3 hours)

CDFS 312 - Family and Personal Development

(3 units)

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirements; [PSY 100](#)

or [SOC 100](#)

or [ANTH 120](#)

; or consent of instructor.

Interdisciplinary introduction to the concepts underlying contemporary American family life and the influence of social and cultural conditions on human development.

Both grading options. (Lecture-discussion 3 hours)

CDFS 314 - The Older Child

(3 units)

Prerequisites: A grade of "C" or better in [CDFS 111](#)

; or consent of instructor. CDFS majors & minors, FLE majors, and HDEV majors only.

Behavior and development in middle and late childhood and adolescence, with emphasis on individual and cultural differences.

Both grading options. (Lecturer-discussion 3 hours)

CDFS 315 - Observation and Assessment with Young Children

(3 units)

Prerequisites: [CDFS 111](#),
[CDFS 211](#),
and [CDFS 214](#)
or [CDFS 215](#)

Assessment and observation strategies to document young children's (infant through Transitional Kindergarten) learning and development. Recording strategies, rating systems, portfolios, and multiple assessments will be explored along with strategies for families and professional collaboration.

Letter grade only (A-F)

CDFS 319 - Family Stress and Coping

(3 units)

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirements; [ANTH 120](#)
or [PSY 100](#)
or [SOC 100](#)
or consent of instructor.

Prerequisites: Students must have scored 11 or higher on the GWAR Placement Examination or completed the necessary portfolio course that is a prerequisite for a GWAR Writing Intensive Capstone. (**Note: The preceding prerequisite statement related to GWAR is temporarily suspended effective Summer 2025.**)

Examination of theories and research associated with stressors affecting family functioning throughout the lifecycle. Consideration given to both normative transitions and non-normative stressors. Emphasis on strategies to assist families to deal productively with stress and change.

Both grading options. (Lecture-discussion 3 hours)

CDFS 402 - Child and Family Law

(3 units)

Prerequisites: A grade of "C" or better in [CDFS 312](#); upper division standing. CDFS and FLE majors only.
Establishment, conduct, and termination of marital and non-marital family relationships, including the rights and duties of the parties involved. Topics include marital disillusionment, child custody issues, property rights, domestic violence, adoption, support, genetic testing, and new trends in family law.

Letter grade only (A-F). (Lecture-discussion 3 hours)

CDFS 405 - A Practical Approach to Social Science Research

(3 units)

Prerequisites: Completion of at least 60 units.
This course teaches students how to be informed consumers of research. Students will use their own practical experience as well as current events covered in the media to learn about, conduct, and interpret social science research.

Letter grade only (A-F). Not repeatable for credit.

CDFS 406 - Adult Supervision and Mentoring in the Early Childhood Classroom

(3 units)

Prerequisites: [CDFS 414](#)

or [CDFS 415](#)
or [CDFS 416](#)

Methods and principles of supervising adults in the Early Childhood classroom. Emphasis is placed on the role of director, teacher, staff/student teacher: in the areas of supervision and mentoring. The course will discuss leadership theories, communication styles, mentoring, coaching, effective classroom environments and assessment tools.

Letter grade only (A-F).

CDFS 407 - The Hospitalized Child

(3 units)

Prerequisite: CDFS and FLE majors and CDFS Minors.

Child Life Education focus on the psychosocial care of children and their families in health care settings. Effects of medical environments on children and their families with emphasis on strategies for interactions that enhance family coping.

Both grading options.

CDFS 408 - Transition to Parenthood and Family Dynamics

(3 units)

An empirically based evaluation of the transition to parenthood. It examines how a baby, from the onset of pregnancy to one year after the child's birth, impacts a couple's relationship. Both theory and research are emphasized.

Both grading options. (3 hours lecture)

CDFS 409 - Language, Learning and the Developing Child: A Cross-Cultural Perspective

(3 units)

Prerequisites: CDFS majors and minors only. Freshmen excluded.

Explores the communicative-linguistic, cognitive, physical, and socio-emotional development of the child from the prenatal to adolescent period across diverse cultures with an emphasis on language acquisition and the learning process.

Letter grade only (A-F). Not open for credit to students currently enrolled in the Liberal Studies program. Not open for credit to student with credit in LING 429, EDEL 429, and EDP 428.

CDFS 410 - International Families: Families in Cross-Cultural Perspectives

(3 units)

Prerequisites: A grade of "C" or better in [CDFS 312](#)

and CDFS majors & minors and FLE majors only. Exclude freshmen.

Basic concepts and definitions relating cross-cultural studies will be discussed. Important family life cycle changes will be explained for major ethnic groups within the United States. Family life in selected international families will also be examined.

Both grading options. (Lecture-discussion 3 hours)

CDFS 411 - Child Development Applications: Connecting Research, Policy, and Practice

(3 units)

Prerequisites: A grade of "C" or better in [CDFS 311](#)

or [CDFS 314](#)

or [HDEV 307](#)

or [PSY 361](#)

and CDFS majors & minors, FLE majors, and HDEV majors only. Upper division standing.

A critical examination of how developmental research can be used to improve the lives of children and families through policy and practice.

Both grading options. (Lecture-activity 3 hours)

CDFS 412 - Family Interaction

(3 units)

Prerequisites: A grade of "C" or better in [CDFS 312](#)

. CDFS majors, CDFS Minors, FLE majors, and HDEV majors only. Upper division standing.

Dynamics of interaction and communication in interpersonal relationships throughout the family life cycle. Experience with a variety of communication skills in small group settings.

Both grading options. (Lecture-discussion 3 hours)

CDFS 413 - Child and Family in the Community

(3 units)

Prerequisites: A grade of "C" or better in [CDFS 312](#)

. CDFS majors, CDFS minors, FLE majors, and HDEV majors only. Upper division standing.

Study of cultural varieties and the needs of the contemporary American family in an urban community; analysis of current issues and problems; identification of and experience with community resources and agencies.

Both grading options. (Lecture-discussion 3 hours)

CDFS 414 - Preschool Practicum

(3 units)

Prerequisites: A grade of "C" or better in [CDFS 111](#)

, [CDFS 211](#)

, [CDFS 214](#)

; or consent of instructor.

Demonstration of developmentally appropriate early childhood program planning and teaching competencies. Students will utilize practical classroom experiences to make connections between theory and practice, develop professional behaviors, and build a comprehensive understanding of children and families. Reflective practice will be emphasized as student teachers design, implement, and evaluate approaches, strategies, and techniques that promote development and learning.

Both grading options. (Lecture 1 hour, laboratory 6 hours)

CDFS 415 - Toddler Practicum

(3 units)

Prerequisites: A grade of "C" or better in [CDFS 111](#)

, [CDFS 211](#)

, [CDFS 215](#)

; or consent of instructor.

Demonstration of developmentally appropriate early childhood program planning and teaching competencies. Students will utilize practical classroom experiences to make connections between theory and practice, develop professional behaviors, and build a comprehensive understanding of children and families. Reflective practice will be emphasized as student teachers design, implement, and evaluate approaches, strategies, and techniques that promote development and learning.

Letter grade only (A-F). (Lecture 1 hour, laboratory 6 hours) May be repeated to a maximum of 6 units in different semesters with assignments reflecting increasing levels of difficulty.

CDFS 416 - Administration of Child Development Programs

(3 units)

Prerequisites: CDFS majors only. Exclude first-time, first-year students.

Introduction to the administration of early childhood programs with an emphasis on quality programming for Infant through Preschool aged children. Covers philosophies, licensing regulations, staffing, budgeting, marketing, policies, procedures and advocacy.

Both grading options. (Lecture-discussion 3 hours)

CDFS 418 - Parent Education

(3 units)

Prerequisite: [CDFS 111](#)

and CDFS majors, CDFS minors, and FLE majors only. Upper division standing.

Principles and techniques for working with parents in community and school programs. Assessment of needs and development of programs for adults in a variety of social and cultural settings.

Both grading options. (Lecture-activity 3 hours)

CDFS 419 - Serving Individuals and Families in the Community

(3 units)

Prerequisites: [CDFS 312](#)

Purpose, principles, ethics, and paradigms of family science will be explored. Planning, implementing, and evaluating programs for individuals and families will be discussed. Gender, ethnicity, and diversity issues related to family science will be stressed.

Letter grade only (A-F). (Lecture-discussion 3 hours)

CDFS 490 - Selected Topics in Child Development and Family Studies

(1-3 units)

Prerequisite(s): Freshmen are prohibited from enrolling in upper division courses. Instructor consent.
Group investigation of selected topics.

Both grading options (Seminar 1-3 hours) May be repeated to a maximum of 9 units.

CDFS 490D - Children and Families in New Zealand and in the U.S.A.

(1-3 units)

Prerequisite(s): Freshmen are prohibited from enrolling in upper division courses. Instructor consent.
Group investigation of selected topics.

Both grading options. (Seminar 1-3 hours) May be repeated to a maximum of 9 units. Topics announced in the *Schedule of Classes*.

CDFS 492A - Internship in Child Development and Family Studies

(3 units)

Prerequisites: Student must be a Family and Consumer Sciences: Child Development and Family Studies major; have senior standing; have a 2.5 overall GPA or a 3.0 major GPA; approval of a faculty advisor in Child Development and Family Studies; and [CDFS 411](#), [CDFS 413](#), and [CDFS 414](#)

or [CDFS 415](#)

. Each prerequisite course must be completed with a grade of "C" or better. A course in which a grade lower than "C" is received must be retaken and successfully completed prior to enrolling in any course for which it is a prerequisite. Students receiving a grade lower than a "C" may proceed with other courses with approval of the Area Coordinator. CDFS 492A may not be taken concurrently with [CDFS 492B](#) or FCS 392A .

Field experience in which student assumes a preprofessional role in a professional setting. Objectives developed by student with supervisor must be approved by major advisor and form the basis for evaluation.

Both grading options. (Seminar 3 hours) May be repeated for 6 units maximum.

CDFS 492B - Internship in Child and Family Services

(3 units)

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Student must be a major in Child Development and Family Studies in the option of Family Life Education; have senior standing; have a 2.5 overall GPA or a 3.0 major GPA; have approval of a faculty advisor in Child Development and Family Studies; have completed or concurrently be enrolled in [CDFS 413](#) and [CDFS 419](#)

. A course in which a grade lower than "C" is received must be retaken and successfully completed prior to enrolling in any course for which it is a prerequisite. Students receiving a grade lower than a "C" may proceed with other courses with approval of the Area Coordinator. CDFS 492B may not be taken concurrently with [CDFS 492A](#) or FCS 392A.

Field experience in which student assumes a preprofessional role in a professional setting. Objectives developed by student with supervisor must be approved by major advisor and form the basis for evaluation.

Both grading options. (Seminar 3 hours) May be repeated for 6 units maximum.

CDFS 497 - Directed Studies

(1-3 units)

Prerequisites: Upper division standing, consent of instructor.

Independent study under the supervision of a faculty member. Exploration/experience in areas not a part of any regular course.

Both grading options May be repeated to a maximum of 6 units.

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