Child psychology deals with behavioral development from the prenatal period to maturity in the areas of cognition, ethology, genetics, language, learning, perception, and social behavior.

The Institute of Child Development, housed in the College of Education and Human Development, offers a bachelor of arts, a bachelor of science, and a minor in child psychology through the College of Liberal Arts. All undergraduate child psychology courses are considered CLA courses and they count toward the CLA graduation requirements.

### Preparatory Coursework

Students take CPsy 2301—Introductory Child Psychology and Psy 1001—Introduction to Psychology to prepare for the major.

### B.A.

#### Degree Requirements

Students must complete at least 120 credits to graduate, including two preparatory courses and 33 additional credits in the major. Major credits are distributed among core courses, a methods course, a senior project, and electives.

#### Required Courses

**Methods Courses**
- CPsy 3308—Introduction to Research Methods
- One of the following statistical methods courses: EPsy 3264, Soc 3811, Stat 3011

**Core Courses**
- CPsy 4331—Social and Personality Development
- CPsy 4343—Cognitive Development
- Four elective courses (16 cr) in child psychology

**Final Project**

Students complete a senior project (CPsy 4347) that may include literature review or research.

### Minor Requirements

**Required preparatory courses:**
- CPsy 2301—Introductory Child Psychology
- Psy 1001—Introduction to Psychology

**To complete the minor:**
- CPsy 3308—Introduction to Research Methods
- One CPsy elective (4 cr)
- Two courses (8 cr) from CPsy 4329, 4331, 4343

### B.S.

#### Degree Requirements

To complete the B.S. in child psychology, students must complete at least 120 credits, including two preparatory courses and 40-42 additional credits in the major. Major credits are distributed among core courses, a methods course, a senior project, and electives.

#### Required Courses

**Methods Courses**
- CPsy 3308—Introduction to Research Methods
- One of the following statistical methods courses: EPsy 3264, Soc 3811, Stat 3011
• One evaluation methods course: EPsy 5243—Principles and Methods of Evaluation or EPsy 5849—Observation and Assessment of the Preschool Child

Core Courses
• CPsy 4311—Behavioral and Emotional Problems of Children or CPsy 4313—Developmental Disabilities
• CPsy 4329—Biological Foundations of Development
• CPsy 4331—Social and Personality Development
• CPsy 4334—Children, Youth in Society
• CPsy 4343—Cognitive Development
• CPsy 4994—Directed Research in Child Psychology and/or CPsy 4996—Field Study in Child Psychology (4 cr total)
• One CPsy elective (4 cr)

Final Project
Senior project CPsy 4347 (2 cr) (either literature review or research project) must be completed before graduation.

Minor Requirements
Students take the required preparatory courses: CPsy 2301—Introductory Child Psychology and Psy 1001—Introduction to Psychology. To complete the minor, students take CPsy 3308—Introduction to Research Methods; two courses (8 cr) from CPsy 4329, 4331, 4343; and one CPsy elective (4 cr).

How do I declare a child psychology major?
You will be required to declare a major by the time you have completed 60 credits.

1. Talk with someone from the child psychology peer advising office at 106 Institute of Child Development, (612) 624-1891 to learn more about the major and its requirements.

2. When you decide upon a child psychology major, meet with a peer adviser from the department to complete a Major Program form. Bring a copy of your transcript (unofficial copies are okay). Be sure to retain the student copy of the Major Program form for your records.

3. Bring a copy of the Major Program form to your CLA student community.

4. If you decide to change your major, contact your student community to learn about your new major’s declaration process.

What can I do with a major in child psychology?

Skills
Child psychology majors develop great skills that are applicable to a wide variety of careers. These skills include:
• Ability to formulate clear and persuasive messages
• Listening, clarifying, questioning and responding skills
• Independent, self-motivated work ethic
• Ability to work well with diverse groups

Employment
Common areas of employment for this major include but are not limited to:
• Social Services—social work, psychology, therapy, health care
• Child Development—early childhood education, youth counseling
• Education—teaching, research, admissions, advising, student affairs
• Nonprofit—fundraising, programming, management
• Business—marketing, human resources, sales, consulting, recruiting
• Government—public information, campaigns, research

Today’s workplace requires individuals with interpersonal skills, the ability to communicate effectively, an ability to solve problems, and adaptability. CLA graduates find that they are well-prepared in all these areas and that their education—especially when combined with experience gained through internships, volunteer positions, past jobs, and other collegiate involvement—makes them competitive.

The Career & Community Learning Center provides students with the tools to identify and pursue potential careers. An extensive resource room, the CLA Link website, career courses and workshops, and a helpful staff are just some of the ways we can help.

Remember!
You have not declared a major until you have:
• completed a Major Program Form with your major adviser
• filed a copy with the major department
• filed a copy with your CLA student community
• be sure to keep a copy for yourself
About the child psychology major:
Undergraduate Advising
104 Institute of Child Development
(612) 624-1891
http://icd.coled.umn.edu

About CLA requirements, graduation, and other information about majors:
CLA Psychological Sciences Student Community
30 Johnston Hall
(612) 626-7707
http://www.class.umn.edu/psysci/
spsych@class.cla.umn.edu

or
CLA Martin Luther King, Jr. Program
19 Johnston Hall
(612) 625-2300
http://www.class.umn.edu/mlk/
mlk@class.cla.umn.edu

About careers, internships, and community learning opportunities in this major and others:
Career and Community Learning Center
135 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-7577
www.cclc.umn.edu
cclc@class.cla.umn.edu

About graduation with honors:
Students interested in graduating with honors should contact:
CLA Honors Division
115 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-5522
www.cla.umn.edu/honors/
honors@class.cla.umn.edu