College of Liberal Arts

Degree Type(s)
B.A., B.S.

Link to major's website
B.A. degree requirements
B.S. degree requirements

Minor available

Study behavioral development across the lifespan. Complete coursework in topic areas including social and emotional development, cognitive development, language development, emotional and behavioral disorders, biological development, and research methods.

Our developmental psychology undergraduate program is offered through the College of Liberal Arts.

- Take classes with field-leading faculty in the #1 ranked developmental psychology program in the nation (U.S. News and World Report, 2018).
- Prepare for graduate study or a meaningful career in a field that impacts the lives of children and youth.
- Have the opportunity to study abroad and experience child development across cultures through classes and internships in places like France, Denmark, London, or Australia.
- Join the Child Psychology Student Organization to connect with other developmental psychology students and engage with our surrounding community.

Choose your degree path:

- Bachelor of arts (B.A.): Build a liberal arts foundation that includes a second language requirement. Take courses in developmental psychology and
complete an internship or directed experience to apply what you learn.

- **Bachelor of science (B.S.):** Pursue a degree with a stronger emphasis on research. Replace the second language requirement with additional courses in development psychology. Complete an internship and directed research experience in the field of developmental psychology.

The College of Liberal Arts Advantage: More Than a Major

When you study Developmental Psychology at the University of Minnesota, you gain the added advantage of a College of Liberal Arts education. At CLA, the liberal arts mean you get more than just a degree in one major or another; it means you will be exposed to different areas of study, to different ways of thinking and learning. In fact, the liberal arts teach you **how to learn**—how to ask the right questions, how to problem solve, and how to innovate. The liberal arts highlight the complexities of our world, because here at CLA you will study not just, say, politics or art but also where politics and art intersect, where science and ethics intersect, where economics and the environment intersect.

Meet Our Students

Kevin Ly is an undergraduate student in the Institute of Child Development (ICD), who is currently studying to receive a B.S. in child psychology. As a member of the Child Psychology Student Organization (CPSO), Kevin has met many members of the faculty and discovered research opportunities in both the Early Language and
Experience Lab and the Bioecology, Self-Regulation, and Learning Lab.

Read more about Kevin's story.

Courtney Engholm is pursuing a BA in child psychology at the Institute of Child Development (ICD). Through joining the Child Psychology Student Organization (CPSO), Engholm has discovered many networking and research opportunities. Currently, she serves as CPSO’s vice president, assisting the president in the operation, scheduling, and facilitation of their organization.

Read more about Courtney's story.

Student Experiences

Internships in Developmental Psychology: Gain Valuable Experience in the Twin Cities and Beyond

Did you know? Our department has its very own internship reflection course! Students taking an internship can use this course to reflect on ways that their work experience is preparing them for successful careers - and receive credit for the work.
Learning Abroad Options in Developmental Psychology: Prepare to Lead in a Global Economy

Learn more about study abroad for Developmental Psychology majors.

Student Organizations: Find Friends and Grow as a Leader

- Child Psychology Student Organization
- Psi Chi & Psychology Club
- School Psychology Student Association
- Active Minds
- Brain Club

Undergraduate Research: Turn Curiosity into New Knowledge

Healthy child and adolescent development is the foundation of a healthy future. Our research aims to understand and advance the science of human development across the lifespan to better inform policies and practices that address our society’s most critical issues, including closing the opportunity gap, building healthy relationships and communities, and charting brain growth and health.

100% of students complete directed research with a faculty member or an internship experience.

Meet Our Faculty

Arthur J. Reynolds, Ph.D., a professor in the Institute of Child Development, has
teamed up with Judy A. Temple, Ph.D., a professor in the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, to compile best practices for how to sustain gains in children’s learning and well-being achieved by early education programs.

Read more about Professor Reynold's work.

Meet Our Alumni

Amanda Tarullo, Ph.D., is an assistant professor at Boston University and the director of the Brain and Early Experiences Lab. Tarullo earned her doctorate from the Institute of Child Development (ICD) while working with Megan Gunnar, Ph.D., on research with internationally adopted children. Below, Tarullo discusses how her time at ICD prepared her to conduct her own research and educate others in the field.

Read more about Amanda's story.

CLA Graduates: Successful Careers and Purposeful Lives

CLA graduates succeed in many different careers — law, health care, medicine, business, government, teaching, advertising, arts and entertainment, international relations, and more — precisely because they understand how to navigate a complex and interconnected world. As our alumni explain below, “Being a good
employee means being curious, and continuing to evolve, and learn, and educate yourself, and I can think of no stronger foundation for doing that than a liberal arts education.”

“An education in the liberal arts is a springboard to lifelong career success”
-- Dean John Coleman

You might also explore

Early Childhood  
Psychology  
Special Education

Associated Careers

Child, Family, and School Social Workers; Educational, Vocational, and School Counselors; Elementary, Middle, and High School Teachers; Preschool Teachers; Research Psychologists; School Psychologists

Admission Information

FRESHMAN: Admission information
TRANSFER STUDENTS: Requirements for the College of Liberal Arts

• Did you know? CLA Transfer Advising has created an official "transfer guide" for a number of degree programs, including Developmental Psychology, to help you determine which credits will transfer, and how.

Beyond admission, if you have questions about transferring, the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) has transfer advisors to help. Please feel free to contact them about any of the topics below!

• Course plans before transferring
• Estimated time to graduation
• Career preparation in CLA
• Getting ready for orientation, if admitted
• Connecting with major/minor departments