PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT
DEVELOPMENTAL SPECIALIZATION

OVERVIEW

In the Developmental Specialization, students will consider how development across the lifespan (from infancy through aging) is influenced by social relationships, cultural contexts, and individual differences (e.g., temperament). Students will choose among seminars that specialization on a developmental stage (e.g., adolescence), on a type of development (e.g., identity), on a developmental influence (e.g., the media), or on psychopathology (e.g., attention deficits). Research (laboratory and field) and internship opportunities will ask students to apply, in real-world settings, the theories and facts learned in the classroom. This specialization will prepare students for graduate work and/or careers related to normative development in infancy, childhood, adolescence, and all phases of adulthood.

For more information about this specialization, contact the Developmental Psychology Coordinator (Dr. Hughes, jhughes@tcnj.edu) or any of the affiliated faculty listed below.

COURSEWORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENTAL SPECIALIZATION

Core Courses:  
PSY 101 - General Psychology  
PSY 121 - Methods & Tools  
PSY 203 - Design & Statistical Analysis  
PSY 299 - Research Seminar*  
*Any research seminar (PSY 299) fulfills this requirement, although we recommend a seminar in developmental.

Foundation Courses:  
PSY 220 — Development across the Lifespan (or equivalent - ECE 201, ELE 201, SPE 203 or NUR 110) with a minimum grade of C+  
Plus any two additional foundation courses

Specialized Courses:  
Students select three 300-level courses. Specialized courses of interest to students with Developmental Specialization must include: Developmental Seminar (PSY 370) - [may take more than once, with topics including Children and the Media, Racial and Ethnic Diversity, Child Therapy; and Children’s Peer Relationships]  
Plus two additional Specialized Courses, such as Clinical Psychopharmacology; Developmental Psychopathology; Psychological Testing; Lab Learning, etc.

Psychology Option:  
Students select 1 course; recommended at 300 or 400 level.

Senior Experience:  
Students must select 1 senior experience course including Senior Topics Seminar; Individual Study; Internship; Lab Learning; and Honors Thesis.
FACULTY AFFILIATED with the DEVELOPMENTAL SPECIALIZATION

Dr. James Graham (Office: SB 122; Phone: 609.771.2638; E-mail: jgraham@tcnj.edu)
Courses: Lifespan Development; Research Seminar (Child Development); Developmental Seminar (Analysis of Racial & Ethnic Diversity among US Children; Children’s Peer Relationships & Friendships; Children and the Media); Lab Learning (Children’s’ Social Development & KidsBridge Lab); Senior Topics (Cross-Cultural Child Development)
Research Interests: Peer relationship/friendships; children and the media; and multicultural child development
Research Lab: Children’s Social Development, http://www.tcnj.edu/~childdev/

Dr. Julie Hughes (Office: SB 112; Phone: 609.771.2430; E-mail: jhughes@tcnj.edu)
Courses: Methods and Tools; Development Across the Lifespan; Research Seminar; Developmental Seminar (Gender and Racial Stereotyping; Adolescent Development)
Research Interests: Children's attitudes and reasoning about race; social inequality; and race-related social and educational policy
Research Lab: Prejudice and Development (PaD) Lab, http://psychology.department.tcnj.edu/PrejudiceandDevelopmentLab.html

Dr. Tamra Bireta (Office: SB 108; Phone: 609.771.3069; E-mail: tbireta@tcnj.edu)
Courses: Cognitive Psychology; Methods and Tools; Cognitive Seminar (Memory across the Lifespan); Lab Learning (Memory and Aging Lab);
Research Interests: Memorability of different types of information with a focus on age-related differences in patterns of memory performance
Research Lab: Memory and Aging Lab, http://www.tcnj.edu/~memory/

Dr. He Len Chung (Office: SB 114; Phone: 609.771.2646; E-mail: chung@tcnj.edu)
Courses: Methods and Tools; Abnormal Psychology; Counseling & Clinical Seminar (Mental Health and Poverty); Lab Learning (REACH Lab); Senior Topics (Psychosocial Interventions for Children and Adolescents)
Research Interests: Positive youth development, Resilience during the transition to adulthood, community-based research, and mental health services utilization
Research Lab: Research on Emerging Adulthood and Community Health (REACH), http://www.tcnj.edu/~reach/

Dr. Betsy Ruddy (Office: SB 119; Phone: 609.771.2630; E-mail: ruddy@tcnj.edu)
Courses: Research Seminar (Developmental); Clinical Psychopharmacology; Senior Topics (Controversies in Development)
Research Interests: Attention; temperament; imagination and play in infancy and early childhood; attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD); parenting; psychopathology

Dr. Jeanine Vivona (Office: SB 120; Phone: 609.771.2634; E-mail: jvivona@tcnj.edu)
Courses: Research Seminar (Late Adolescent Development); Developmental Psychopathology; Senior Topics (Psychoanalytic Theories of Mothering, Siblings)
Research Interests: Dependency and autonomy in late adolescent and adult development; worry; metaphor language; psychotherapeutic process

Updated 9/1/2011
RECENT STUDENT-FACULTY COLLABORATIONS and INTERNSHIPS

- Effective male mentoring within a Life-Skills program for elementary students
- Language Acquisition in Infants
- Implementing an anti-bullying curriculum in primary- and secondary-schools
- Empathy development in undergraduates at the KidsBridge Museum
- Influence of ethnic group membership in young adults’ political attitudes
- Relationships between attention and imaginative play
- Emotional regulation and meaning making processing in sexually abused youth
- Content and frequency of children’s worry
- Internship: Celebrate the Children (school for special-needs children)
- Internship: Office of the Child Advocate