

A top-down view of a wooden desk. In the upper right, a white keyboard is partially visible. To its left is a small black pot with green grass-like plants. Below the keyboard, a black paperclip lies on the desk. In the lower right, there is a black notebook with a white page, a black pen, and a white coffee cup with a dark liquid. The background is a dark, textured wooden surface. The text 'Developmental Psychology' is centered in a white, italicized serif font, with a short green horizontal line underneath it. There are also some green decorative dots in the bottom right corner.

Developmental Psychology

What is Developmental Psychology?

- Developmental Psychology is the focus on the development of individuals across the whole lifespan (not just children!). This can include many factors such as physical, mental, or socioemotional processes. More information can be found using the links provided below:

<https://www.apa.org/education-career/guide/subfields/developmental/education-training>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8O6z5-WTHt0&ab_channel=KenTangen

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSTPYv2HKFc&ab_channel=UniversityofMichigan-Dearborn

Potential Career Paths in Developmental Psychology:

- Developmental Psychologist.
This path requires receiving either an M.A., Ph.D., or Psy.D.
- Clinical Child Psychologist.
This path requires receiving either an M.A., Ph.D., or Psy.D.
- Early Intervention Specialist.
- Child Care Activity Specialist.
- Case Worker.
- Child Life Specialist.
This path requires receiving an M.A.
- Speech Therapist.
This path requires receiving an M.A.

Undergraduate Recommended Courses in Psychology:

- Child Development (**PSY 311**).
- Adult Development (**PSY 312**).
- Human Sexual Behavior (**PSY 330**).
- Personality (**PSY 360**).
- Psychology of Learning (**PSY 416***).
- Intermediate Behavioral Statistics (**PSY 417***).

* make sure to look at the pre-requisites for these courses, as there are more than just PSY 201! Ask an Advising Officer if you have any questions 😊

Undergraduate Recommended Courses Outside of Psychology:

- Introduction to Communication Disorders (**CD 101**).
- Language and Speech Development (**CD 228**).
- Developmental Language Disorders (**CD 328**).
- Survey Exceptional Child I and II (**CISP 320/420 - Must be taken in the same semester!**).
- Child with Exceptionalities (**CISP 421**).
- Introduction to Autism (**CISP427**).
- Early Childhood Wellbeing (**ECE 101**).
- Introduction to Social Work (**SWK 101**).

* make sure to look at the pre-requisites for these courses! Ask an Advising Officer if you have any questions ☺

Recommended Minors and Certificates:

- Communication Studies Minor.
- Communication Disorders Minor.
- Social Work Minor.
- Sociology Minor.

Accelerated Masters Students Recommended Courses:

- Psychology of Learning (**PSY 516** instead of PSY 416).
- Intermediate Behavioral Statistics (**PSY 517** instead of PSY 417).
- Advanced Social Psychology (**PSY 606** instead of PSY 302).

Is Graduate Training Required?

- Some potential career paths under the subdiscipline of Developmental Psychology require some sort of graduate training. Be sure to do your own research when deciding on a future career!
- Though it seems that there is no national organization specifically for developmental psychologists, consider joining the American Psychological Association as an Undergraduate Student Affiliate:
<https://www.apa.org/members/your-membership/join#types>

Ways to Stand Out in Developmental Psychology:

- Clinical Experience:
 - Developmental psychologists do not typically do a lot of clinical work, though this does depend on the career path they decide to pursue. If you're interested in clinical child psychology or a related field, try to get applied experiences working with kids!
- Volunteer Work:
 - If you are interested in working with child and adolescent populations, consider attending a summer youth camp as a counselor. There are some camps that work specifically with mental health and look for psychology undergraduate volunteers (ex: Mighty Mouth Kids Camp, FIU Summer Treatment Camp, Camp Baker, etc.). Note that some of these camps might pay counselors, which would not count as volunteering!
 - If your interests lie more with geriatric populations, consider volunteering at a nursing home or a retirement facility.
- Research:
 - Research experience is essentially a requirement if pursuing a Ph.D and is highly recommended regardless. Look for the professor's research interests on the Marshall University website for a subject area that matches your own interests! Reach out and see if you can get involved with their research. This does not have to be limited to the Psychology Department, and Dr. Marianna Linz might have some suggestions for research opportunities around campus.