

Child Studies (M.Ed.)

We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.

—Franklin D. Roosevelt

Child Studies in the Department of Psychology and Human Development is a highly individualized program designed to train students as practitioners and researchers who seek to improve outcomes for children, adolescents, and families in settings including schools, community service organizations, nonprofit and research institutions, and universities. The program combines traditional classroom preparation with practicum experiences or research mentorships to prepare students for applied careers or strengthen their training in preparation for doctoral study in clinical, developmental, or other areas of psychology.

Interdisciplinary coursework integrates child development research and theory with effective practice through a range of possible field experiences through



which students develop expertise as consumers and producers of scholarly research. Areas of concentration include behavior analysis, pediatric health care, educational program development, developmental disabilities, early intervention services,

early childhood poverty and intervention, child advocacy, public policy, youth development, and clinical and developmental psychology.

Tracks

Students enter as a cohort in the summer semester and pursue one of two tracks:

- **Applied Professional Track**—for students interested in careers working directly with children and families
- **Empirical Research Track**—for students interested in pursuing doctoral study in clinical, developmental, educational, or cognitive psychology

Career Paths

Among other positions, graduates can be found working as behavioral analysts, child life specialists, youth and family program developers, or research scientists. Enrollment in doctoral programs is the most common path for graduates of the Empirical Research Track.



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How to Apply

Visit apply.vanderbilt.edu

There is no fee to apply online.

For more information, visit
peabody.vanderbilt.edu

Priority Application Deadline

December 31

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