

Undergraduate Certificate Program in Human Development

Mission statement:

Duke University offers an undergraduate certificate in human development which involves the following:

- A curriculum emphasizing the complementarity of biological, biomedical, psychological and sociological disciplinary perspectives.
- A research apprenticeship with a Duke Faculty member who does developmental research.
- A senior seminar.
- Advice for curriculum planning.
- Skills in the conceptualization, implementation, evaluation and communication of developmental research.

The mission of the Duke University Certificate Program in Human Development is to engage students in a multilevel learning experience which emphasizes the integration of biological, biomedical, psychological and sociological disciplinary perspectives. The primary goal of this multidisciplinary certificate program is to broaden and enhance the perspective of students with career interests related to human development. The Program's objective is achieved by exposing students to a range of intellectual experiences designed to foster an understanding of biological, psychological, social and cultural factors acting together over the life course, to highlight how various disciplines study human development differently but in a complementary way, and to facilitate cross-disciplinary discussion. Through this program, students will gain an in-depth and personal understanding of the complexities of developmental trajectories and processes including the contextual factors which are of influence. Upon completion of the certificate program, students will have obtained substantive knowledge, analytical abilities, interpretive skills, and an appreciation for the importance of understanding development holistically, where the sum is much greater than the parts.

Students will work closely with faculty throughout the program, through the development of an initial research proposal (Humandev 124), the hands-on experience during the research apprenticeship (Humandev 190), and the guidance during the capstone course (Humandev 191S). Faculty members are committed to

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an interactive learning process in which students are progressively prepared for further professional or educational goals.

To this end, the program will emphasize writing, thinking, and questioning through class work, discussion, collaborative research, and independent projects.

Delineating the key questions in human development and working collaboratively toward answering them is an important focus of the program.