

Comparative Human Development

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Program of Study

The program in Comparative Human Development (CHDV) focuses on the study of persons over the course of life; on the social, cultural, biological, and psychological processes that jointly influence development; and on growth over time in different social and cultural settings. The study of human development also offers a unique lens through which we consider broad questions relevant to the social sciences, like the processes and impacts of social change, and the interactions of biology and culture. Faculty members in Comparative Human Development with diverse backgrounds in anthropology, biology, psychology, and sociology conduct research on topics that include (but are not limited to): the social and phenomenological experience of mental illness; the impact of socioeconomic context on growth and development; the influence of social interaction on biological functioning; the tensions inherent in living in multicultural societies; the experience and development of psychotherapies in Western and non-Western countries; and the ways in which youth in developing countries are forging new conceptions of adulthood. Given this interdisciplinary scope, the program in Comparative Human Development provides an excellent preparation for students interested in advanced postgraduate study at the frontiers of several social science disciplines, or in careers and professions that require a broad and integrated understanding of human experience and behavior—e.g., mental health, education, social work, health care, or human resource and organizational work in community or corporate settings.

Advising

The first point of contact for undergraduates are the preceptors, so students should contact the preceptors before contacting the undergraduate program chair.

Electronic Communication

Program undergraduates should promptly join the CHDV undergraduate email listserv (humdev-undergrad) upon declaring a human development major to receive important announcements. For information on how to sign up for the listserv, visit lists.uchicago.edu.

Program Requirements

The undergraduate program in Comparative Human Development has the following components:

1. **Core Courses.** A two-quarter introductory sequence in Comparative Human Development should be completed prior to the Spring Quarter of a student's third year. CHDV 20000 focuses on theories of development, with particular reference to the development of the self in a social and cultural context. CHDV 20100 focuses on modes of research and inquiry in human development, including basic concepts of research design and different methods used in studying human development (e.g., ethnography, experiments, surveys, discourse analysis, narrative inquiry, and animal models). Consideration is given to the advantages and limitations of each approach in answering particular questions concerning person and culture.
2. **Methods.** Students must register for one quantitative or one qualitative CHDV methods course (designated in the list of Courses with the letter "M") or one research methods (or statistics) course in a related department with the consent of the CHDV program chair. A petition is required for Methods courses outside of Comparative Human Development with the exception of STATS 20000, PSYCH 20100, or a higher-level Statistics course, none of which require a petition to count for the Methods requirement.
3. **Electives.** All CHDV majors are required to take nine CHDV elective courses. We encourage students to take their elective courses across the four areas of Comparative Human Development, given the department's commitment to transdisciplinary scholarship. All CHDV course numbers are labeled to describe the areas in which they are most closely aligned. The four areas are the following:
 - A. *Comparative Behavioral Biology*: includes courses on the biopsychology of attachment; evolutionary social psychology; evolution of parenting; biological psychology; primate behavior and ecology; behavioral endocrinology.
 - B. *Life Course Development*: includes courses on social and psychological development through the life course, including courses on childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and aging; education and development; introduction to language development; the role of early experience in development; sexual and gender identity; the study of lives and families in social and cultural context.
 - C. *Culture and Community*: includes courses on cultural psychology; psychological anthropology; social psychology; cross-cultural child development; language, culture, and thought; language socialization; education in ethnic and cultural context; psychiatric and psychodynamic anthropology; memory and culture.
 - D. *Mental Health and Personality*: includes courses on personality theory and research; social and cultural foundations of mental and physical health; modern psychotherapies and their supporting institutions; psychology of well-being; conflict understanding and resolution; core concepts and current directions in psychopathology; emotion, mind, and rationality; body image in health and disorder; advanced concepts in psychoanalysis.

Petitions

Student petitions will be accepted only in very limited circumstances to request that courses not taught in or cross-listed in CHDV to count toward CHDV major

requirements. These limited circumstances may include a relevant course offered during study abroad if a CHDV course is not available. Only university-level courses credited by the University of Chicago or study abroad may be petitioned for CHDV requirements; no other form of credit (including Advanced Placement) is allowed. Petitions should be completed using the CHDV petition form found at <https://humdev.uchicago.edu/content/requirements-and-forms>. Petitions should include a copy of the course syllabus, since the course title alone is often not sufficient for evaluating a petition.

BA Honors and Related Courses

To receive program honors at graduation, students must have (1) attained a GPA in the major of 3.5 or higher and an overall GPA of 3.25 or higher by the end of the quarter prior to the quarter of graduation, *and* (2) completed a meritorious BA honors paper under the supervision of a CHDV faculty member or other person in the field with a Ph.D. at the University of Chicago. Students who seek departmental honors must complete the CHDV 29800 Honors Seminar in Spring Quarter of their *third* year and the CHDV 29900 Honors Paper Preparation course in Fall Quarter of their *fourth* year. Students must work with a CHDV faculty member or associate faculty member who agrees to supervise their BA thesis. (See the section entitled Honors Guidelines for a complete account of the requirements.)

- **BA Honors Seminar.** The CHDV 29800 Honors Seminar aims to help qualified students formulate a suitable proposal and find a CHDV faculty supervisor. Students eligible for program honors must take the Honors Seminar Spring Quarter of their *third* year (see the section BA Honors Guidelines for the prerequisites and the note on Residence). This course must be taken for a quality grade (not pass/fail) and may be counted as one of the required electives.
- **Honors Paper Preparation Course.** The CHDV 29900 Honors Preparation course aims to help students successfully complete work on their BA honors paper through data analysis and peer review. Students must register for the course in Fall Quarter of their *fourth* year, as a *thirteenth required course*.
- **BA Honors Guidelines.** Students with qualifying GPAs may seek to graduate with honors by successfully completing a BA honors paper that reflects scholarly proficiency in an area of study within Comparative Human Development. The paper should reflect original research of an empirical, scholarly, or theoretical nature and must be rated as worthy of honors by the student's BA Honors Committee. This Committee shall consist of two University faculty members: a supervisor—who must be a CHDV faculty member or associate faculty member—and a second reader—who must be a University of Chicago faculty member or associate faculty member. A list of CHDV Faculty is provided below. The paper should be about thirty to forty pages in length, and the grade given for it will become the grade of record for the CHDV 29900 Honors Paper Preparation course. Permission to register for the BA Honors Seminar course (CHDV 29800) will be granted to students based on their GPA at the end of the quarter prior to

taking CHDV 29800. Permission to undertake a BA honors paper will be granted by the CHD undergraduate chair to students who (1) have successfully completed the CHDV 29800 BA Honors Seminar, and (2) have filed a properly completed BA Honors Paper Proposal Form with the CHDV secretary no later than tenth week of Spring Quarter of the third year. To receive CHDV honors upon graduation, students (1) must have attained a cumulative overall GPA of 3.25 or higher *and* a major GPA of 3.5 or higher by the end of the quarter prior to the quarter of graduation, and (2) must have received a high grade on their BA honors paper.

- **BA Honors Paper for Dual Majors.** In very special circumstances, students may be able to write a longer BA honors paper that meets the requirements for a dual major (with prior approval from the undergraduate program chairs in both departments). Students should consult with both chairs before the end of Spring Quarter of their third year. A consent form, available from the student’s College adviser, must be signed by both chairs and returned to the College adviser, with copies filed in both departmental offices, by the end of Autumn Quarter of the student’s graduation year.
- **Honors Paper Due Date.** Honors papers are due by the end of fifth week of the quarter in which a student plans to graduate (typically in Spring Quarter).
- **Residence.** Qualified students who wish to seek CHDV honors but who plan to study elsewhere Spring Quarter of their third year should speak to the BA Preceptor about a separate arrangement. Students who have already undertaken a BA honors project who plan to study elsewhere during their fourth year must have prior approval from their CHDV faculty BA project supervisor and the CHDV undergraduate chair.

Summary of Requirements

CHDV 20000	Introduction to Human Development	100
CHDV 20100	Human Development Research Designs in Social Sciences	100
	One Methods Course	100
	Nine Elective Courses *	900
	Total Units	1200

Students applying for CHDV honors must register for [CHDV 29800](#) BA Honors Seminar and [CHDV 29900](#) Honors Paper Preparation. CHDV 29800 may be counted as one of the nine required program electives; however, CHDV 29900 does *not* count toward the major and is used for general elective credit only.

Grading

All courses required for the major in Comparative Human Development must be taken for quality grades.

CHDV Faculty

E. Abdelhadi, J. Cole, M. Friedner, S. Goldin-Meadow, W. Goldstein, S. Hans, G. Hong, M. Keels, S. Levine, D. Maestripieri, J. Mateo, E. Raikhel, R. Shweder, M. Spencer

Associated Faculty

K. Cagney, S. Carr, R. Gibbons, D. Hedeker, S. Mufwene, C. Nakassis, K. Schilt, L. Waite, A. Woodward