

Comparative Human Development

Department Website: <http://humdev.uchicago.edu>

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 of 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; comparative education; 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 psychotherapists 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 is the preceptor. Preceptors can be emailed at humdev-preceptors@lists.uchicago.edu. Additional contact information for the year-specific preceptor can be found in Contacts at the bottom of this page, along with the undergraduate chair and administrator contact information.

Electronic Communication

Upon declaring a Comparative Human Development major, undergraduates should promptly join the department undergraduate email listserv to receive important announcements. Students request to join the listserv by logging in with their CNet ID at <https://lists.uchicago.edu> and subscribing to humdev-undergrad@listhost.uchicago.edu (humdev-undergrad@uchicago.edu).

Program Requirements

The requirements below are in effect as of Autumn 2017. Current CHDV majors in the Classes of 2018 or 2019 who wish to follow the previous requirements should work with the preceptor to fashion a program of study.

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

Core Courses

CHDV 20000 Introduction to Human Development and CHDV 20100 Human Development Research Designs in Social Sciences, 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 Introduction to Human Development focuses on theories of development, with particular reference to the development of the self in a social and cultural context. CHDV 20100 Human Development Research Designs in Social Sciences 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.

Methods

Students must complete one Methods course. It may focus on qualitative or quantitative methods or may be a research methods course from a related department, such as Statistics.

The following are courses since 2012 that have fulfilled the Methods requirement without a petition. (Please note courses in this list **may not** be offered this academic year.) Courses that are not on the following list may be petitioned to count for Methods (see Petitions):

STAT 20000 Elementary Statistics

STAT 22000 Statistical Methods and Applications

CHDV 20101 Applied Statistics in Human Development Research

CHDV 20405 Pornography and Language

CHDV 26228 Ethnographic Methods

CHDV 29301 Qualitative Research Methods

CHDV 30102 Introduction to Causal Inference

CHDV 32411 Mediation, Moderation, and Spillover Effects

CHDV 37802 Challenging Legends and Other Received Truths: A Socratic Practicum

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:

1. *Comparative Behavioral Biology*: includes courses on the biopsychology of attachment; evolutionary social psychology; evolution of parenting; biological psychology; primate behavior and ecology; behavioral endocrinology.
2. *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.
3. *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.
4. *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 or cross-listed in CHDV count toward CHDV major requirements. These limited circumstances may include a relevant course offered during study abroad if a CHDV course is not available. Students may petition for one relevant course per quarter of study abroad to count toward the CHD major, but only one, barring unusual circumstances. 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 humdev.uchicago.edu/page/undergraduate-studies. Petitions should include a copy of the course syllabus, since the course title alone is often not sufficient for evaluating a petition.

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 and successfully completing two required accompanying courses: the CHDV 29800 BA Honors Seminar in the Spring Quarter of their third year and CHDV 29900 Honors Paper Preparation in the Autumn Quarter of their fourth year. CHDV 29800 BA Honors Seminar can count as one of the nine elective courses required for the major. CHDV 29900 Honors Paper Preparation may not count toward major requirements; it may be used for general elective credit only. Qualified students who wish to seek CHDV honors and who plan to study abroad should plan their travel in order to ensure they are in residence at the University of Chicago during the Spring Quarter of their third year and the Autumn Quarter of their fourth year in order to take the two courses required for BA honors.

The honors 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). The paper should be about 30 to 40 pages in length. The grade given for it will become the grade of record for the Honors Paper Preparation course (CHDV 29900 Honors Paper Preparation). To receive departmental honors upon graduation, students (1) must have attained a cumulative overall GPA of 3.25 or higher and a major GPA higher than 3.5 by the end of the quarter prior to the quarter of graduation, and (2) must have completed a meritorious BA honors paper under the supervision of a CHDV faculty member and received a high grade on their BA honors paper.

Permission to undertake a BA honors paper will be granted by the CHDV undergraduate chair to students who (1) have successfully completed CHDV 29800 BA Honors Seminar and (2) have filed a properly completed BA Honors Paper Proposal Form with the departmental secretary no later than tenth week of Spring Quarter of the third year.

BA Honors Seminar

The CHDV 29800 BA Honors Seminar aims to help qualified students formulate a suitable proposal and find a CHDV faculty supervisor. Qualified students who wish to seek departmental honors must register for the CHDV 29800 BA Honors Seminar during Spring Quarter of their third year. Permission to register for CHDV 29800 BA Honors Seminar will be granted to students with a GPA that, at the end of Autumn Quarter of the third year, shows promise of meeting the standards set for honors (see above). This course must be taken for a quality grade and may be counted as one of the required major electives. This course is a pre-field course where students develop a ten-page research proposal and find both a CHDV supervisor and a second reader (who may be outside of the department). As part of the proposal, they learn to develop an academic "problem" while reviewing the necessary academic literature. They also decide on the discipline and methods (interviewing, ethnography, experimental design) they will use to tackle their research question.

Honors Paper Preparation Course

The CHDV 29900 Honors Paper Preparation course helps students successfully complete work on their BA honors paper. In order to complete honors, students who successfully took CHDV 29800 in Spring Quarter of their third year must also register for CHDV 29900 Honors Paper Preparation during Autumn Quarter of their fourth year. This course is required but does not count as one of the 12 courses in the major; it may be used for general elective credit only. Students are encouraged to collect their data over the summer; then this course scaffolds the process of analyzing data (such as transcription and coding) and writing up BA papers (such as tips on describing methods and peer review). The grade assigned by the thesis supervisor on the final BA paper is retroactively assigned as the grade for this course.

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).

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.

The courses below are a guide. For up-to-date course plans, please visit [Class Search](http://registrar.uchicago.edu/classes) (<http://registrar.uchicago.edu/classes>) or the [Anticipated Courses List at humdev.uchicago.edu/page/courses](http://humdev.uchicago.edu/page/courses).



Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Times was used instead of Trajan.

Times was used instead of Palatino.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.