

**ASU Department of Psychology
Clinical Program**

The Child Clinical Area of Emphasis

The child clinical area of emphasis provides training in the etiology, assessment, treatment and prevention of childhood disorders. A major focus is on the prevention of child mental health problems among children and families under stress. Thus, most of our child clinical faculty also participate in our community-prevention area of emphasis.

Training is provided through formal courses, faculty-supervised research projects, in-house clinical practica, placements at mental health agencies in the community, and outreach efforts with local schools. Students have an opportunity to work with faculty who are studying topics such as: the influence of stress and coping on children's mental health, children of divorce, effects of bereavement, minority mental health, family and contextual influences on risk and resilience, longitudinal studies linking child risk and resilience to later life outcomes, the development and intergenerational transmission of substance use disorders, outcomes for serious juvenile offenders, and the development and evaluation of prevention programs for children and their families. We emphasize the importance of a developmental perspective and students have opportunities to work with faculty in Developmental Psychology.

In addition to the clinical core courses, several additional courses and experiences are recommended for students with child clinical interests. Students are encouraged to take Developmental Psychopathology and Psychotherapy with Children and Families. For their two Advanced Treatment Methods courses, students are encouraged to select those that focus on children and families. For the cognitive, affective and social bases requirements, students are encouraged to take courses in social, emotional and cognitive development. Also, students are encouraged to select child clinical topics for their Masters and Dissertation projects. It is recommended that students complete a clinical placement and internship at a child clinical site.

Relevant Course Offerings in the Psychology Department. Over and above our core clinical curriculum, graduate courses in the Psychology Department that are focused on child clinical psychology include: Developmental Psychopathology, Psychotherapy with Children and Families, Social Development, Child Language and Drawing, Cognitive Development, Seminar in Prevention Research, Child Assessment, Developing Preventive Interventions, Prevention Programs for Children of Divorce, Peer Relations and Social Competence, Growth Modeling, and Statistics in Prevention Research.

Other Relevant Resources. Child clinical training at ASU benefits from the presence of the ASU Preventive Intervention Research Center, which provides research assistantships in a variety of large scale field projects and intervention trials focused on the prevention of mental health problems for children and families under stress. In addition, students are eligible for pre-doctoral fellowships in our NIMH-funded Training Program on Child Mental Health/Primary Prevention. All clinical students are invited to attend the weekly seminar meetings of this training program to discuss topics in child mental health and primary prevention. In addition, our in-house training clinic provides opportunities for practicum classes in child assessment and treatment, and work with local schools. The Psychology Department also houses a Child Study Laboratory with programs for preschool children and research opportunities. The Quantitative program within the Psychology Department provides training in the methodologies necessary for longitudinal studies of developmental trajectories and for evaluating the effects of intervention on those trajectories.

Outside of the Psychology Department, faculty from ASU's School of Social and Family Dynamics teach a variety of relevant courses and offer research opportunities for our students.

Child clinical placements in the community. Interested students can complete their required clinical placements in community settings that deliver services to children and families such as Phoenix Children's Hospital and Southwest Human Development. In addition, placements are available within the child and family team of our in-house training clinic, including work with child assessment and treatment, and outreach work with local schools.