

**ASU Department of Psychology  
Clinical Program**

**The Community/Prevention Area of Emphasis**

We define the Community/Preventive area of emphasis to include theory, research methods, and interventions that are designed to prevent the occurrence of mental health, substance use or other problems, and to promote healthy adaptation in a range of social environments. Students study theoretical issues such as the influence of stress and coping, family processes, acculturation and cross-cultural issues, neighborhood influences, and economic hardship on the development of mental health or substance abuse problems. Students also become involved in the development, implementation, and evaluation of preventive interventions to promote healthy adaptation for children in a range of high-risk situations. Foci of preventive interventions include children of divorce, inner-city ethnic minority children, bereaved children, and school-based programs.

Some features of particular strength of the Community/Prevention area at ASU include the opportunity for students to be involved in the development, implementation, and evaluation of preventive interventions in close collaboration with the faculty. Our prevention program emphasizes a close integration between theory, intervention development and evaluation, and methodology. Students also have the opportunity to be involved with research projects that have focused on the study of child and family adaptation to high-stress situations such as divorce, bereavement, and acculturation; and the development, implementation, and evaluation of preventive interventions.

Students with an emphasis on Community/Prevention are strongly encouraged to attend the weekly informal seminar in Prevention Research. Students are also advised to take Advanced Treatment Methods courses in which they get hands-on experience in the development and implementation of preventive intervention programs and to take methodology courses such as Prevention Research Methodology, which provide skills in the analysis of community-based studies. It is also recommended that students become involved in field placements in community-based agencies, and conduct their MA and Ph.D. research in prevention or community research.