

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, A.A., A.S., B.A., B.S.

Students of human development gain an understanding of changes across the lifespan and how the social environments we inhabit influence those changes. The study of Human Development enables students to better understand themselves and others, enhances their ability to work with people in various capacities, and prepares them for more advanced study in fields including, but not limited to, the mental health and health-care professions, law, business, education, and nonprofit agencies.

Degrees Available

As a regionally accredited college of the State University of New York, SUNY Empire State College offers the following degrees in human development:

- Associate in Arts
- Associate in Science
- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Science

Taking individual courses as a nondegree student also is possible and will offer you the same range and depth of courses and rigorous standards as matriculated undergraduate students.

Concentrations

Developmental change can take a variety of forms such as growth, maturation, loss, impairment, resilience, adaptation and the enrichment of human potential, identity and meaning. Thus, a concentration in human development examines types of change including psychological, social, cognitive, cultural, behavioral, and biological changes, as well as how our social environments influence these changes. Concentrations in human development may focus on the following:

- a particular age group (e.g., early childhood, adolescence, aging),
- a particular population (e.g., women, men, LGBTQ),
- human conditions (e.g., grieving and loss, incarceration, disability, cultural group),
- important themes related to changes (e.g., health, families, cultural differences, spirituality),
- or across the breadth and depth of human ecology (social systems of persons, including family, school, work, community, society, and even nature).

For sample degree programs and other degree planning resources, please visit the the Department of Psychology and Human Development Degree Planning Resources web page (<https://www.esc.edu/psychology-human-development/degree-planning-resources/>).

Human Development Area of Study Guidelines

Degrees in Human Development include the following six foundations:

1. Lifespan Development
2. Biological Bases of Development
3. Cognitive Bases of Development
4. Social & Emotional Bases of Development

5. Cultural Diversity
6. Methodology & Ethics

These foundations may be met through transcript credit; college-level knowledge demonstrated through individual prior learning assessment (iPLA), professional learning evaluations (PLE), or credit by examination; or individual courses, a series of courses, or components within individual courses with Empire State College. The student's Degree Plan Rationale Essay should clearly explain how the degree plan meets each of the foundations in the concentration, what will be learned, and how the student will build on these foundations to meet personal, academic, or career goals.

Associate in Arts (AA) and Associate in Science (AS)

For an associate degree, students must address the lifespan development foundation plus three of the remaining foundations.

Associate Degree in Human Development Concentration – Psychology: Students who are interested in psychology may earn an Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree in Human Development with a concentration in Psychology. For this concentration, Introduction to Psychology is a required course, in addition to the required lifespan development foundation. Students would still choose three more of the remaining foundations.

Students should consult the B.A. in Psychology Program to make informed choices about courses in the associate degree in case they continue for the bachelor's degree in psychology.

Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science

Students must meet all six of the foundations for a bachelor's degree in Human Development.

Foundation # 1: Lifespan Development

Learning Outcome: Students will be able to describe development (e.g., physical, biological/neural, cognitive, emotional, and social) across the lifespan in relation to theories of human development.

Code	Title	Credits
HUDV 1015	Human Development: Introductory	4
HUDV 3025	Human Development: Advanced	4

Students may learn about lifespan development through a series of developmental courses that cover the whole lifespan (i.e., childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and later life) rather than in one lifespan human development course. This would need to be fully explained in the Degree Program Rationale Essay. Students should consult with their primary mentors.

To cover **child development** the student may take (pick one):

Code	Title	Credits
HUDV 1005	Child Development: Introductory	4
OR		
HUDV 3015	Child Development: Advanced	4
OR		
HUDV 1010	Child & Adolescent Development: Introductory	4
OR		
HUDV 3020	Child & Adolescent Development: Advanced	4

To cover **adolescent development**, students who have not covered it in one of the combined child and adolescent development courses mentioned above may take (pick one):

Code	Title	Credits
HUDV 2005	Adolescent Development: Introductory	4
OR		
HUDV 3080	Adolescent Development: Advanced	4

To cover **adult development** the student may take (pick one):

Code	Title	Credits
HUDV 2015	Adult Development: Introductory	4
OR		
HUDV 3005	Adult Development: Advanced	4
OR		
HUDV 2020	Adult Development & Aging: Introductory	4
OR		
HUDV 3010	Adult Development & Aging: Advanced	4

To cover the **aging** years, students who have not covered it in one of the combined adult development and aging courses listed above may take one of the following (pick one):

Code	Title	Credits
HUDV 2010	Gerontology	4
OR		
PSYC 3115	Psychology of Aging	4

Foundation # 2: Biological Bases of Development

Learning Outcome: Students will be able to analyze biological influences on emotional, cognitive, and behavioral change over time.

Code	Title	Credits
HUDV 3055	Developmental Neurobiology	2
PSYC 2005	Brain & Behavior	4
PSYC 3040	Biological Psychology	3,4
BIOL 1002	Human Biology	4

Students may use a combination of courses to learn about biological processes and how they change over time by learning about development through the major age phases of childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and aging. A series of courses that together cover the whole lifespan would be chosen from the courses listed under Foundation #1 – Lifespan Development. This would need to be fully explained in the Degree Program Rationale Essay. Students should consult with their primary mentors.

Foundation # 3: Cognitive Bases of Development

Learning Outcome: Students will be able to apply primary theories of cognitive development across the lifespan.

Code	Title	Credits
HUDV 3057	Cognitive Development	4
PSYC 2025	Educational Psychology: Introductory	4
PSYC 3015	Educational Psychology: Advanced	4
EDST 4005	Adults as Learners: Theories & Strategies	4
EDST 4010	Human Learning: A Developmental Approach	4

Students may use a combination of courses to learn about cognitive bases of development and how they change over time by learning about development through the major age phases of childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and aging. A series of courses that together cover the whole lifespan would be chosen from the courses listed under Foundation #1 – Lifespan Development. This would need to be fully explained in the Degree Program Rationale Essay. Students should consult with their primary mentors.

Foundation # 4: Social and Emotional Bases of Development

Learning Outcome: Students will be able to analyze intrapersonal and interpersonal processes of normative and non-normative human behavior and development.

Code	Title	Credits
HUDV 2035	Attachment in Early Childhood: Introductory	4
HUDV 3065	Human Exceptionalities	4
HUDV 3066	Developmental Psychopathology	4
HUDV 3035	Attachment Across the Lifespan	3-4
ECET 4015	Development & Meaning of Play	4

Students may use a combination of courses to learn about social and emotional bases of development and how they change over time by learning about development through the major age phases of childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and aging. A series of courses that together cover the whole lifespan would be chosen from the courses listed under Foundation #1 – Lifespan Development. This would need to be fully explained in the Degree Program Rationale Essay. Students should consult with their primary mentors.

Foundation # 5: Cultural Diversity

Learning Outcome: Students will be able to analyze human diversity, including the impact of power, privilege, and oppression on individuals who differ in race, ethnicity, gender, class, socioeconomic status, age, culture, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, and/or ability.

Code	Title	Credits
HUDV 3065	Human Exceptionalities	4
HUDV 3075	Western Civilization & Human Development	4
HUDV 4010	Development of Gender Identity	4
PSYC 3055	Cultural Psychology	4
PSYC 4030	Media Psychology	4
PSYC 4035	Multicultural Counseling	4
ANTH 1010	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	4
GSST 1005	Introduction to Women's Gender & Sexuality Studies	4
GSST 2005	Introduction to LGBTQ+ Studies	4
SOCI 2010	Introduction to Race Class & Gender	4
ANTH 3010	Diversity & Cultural Competency	4
ANTH 3020	Families in Global Perspective	4
ANTH 3030	Immigration Today: Gender & Family	4
CHFS 3060	Multicultural Study of Children & Families	4
GSST 3030	Sex & Gender in Global Perspective	4

Foundation # 6: Methodology and Ethics

Learning Outcome: Students will be able to develop ethical research skills for gathering, interpreting, analyzing, and drawing evidence-based conclusions about human development and behavior.

Code	Title	Credits
HUDV 3085	Research Methods for Lifespan Development (formerly HUDV 4020 Research Perspectives on Human Development)	4
SOSC 3025	Social Science Research Methods	4

*Note: Students interested in attending graduate school are strongly encouraged to add a course in Statistics (such as SOSC 2010: Statistics for the Social Sciences), which is usually required for admission to master-level programs in the behavioral sciences (e.g., MSW, MMH).

Students interested in studying psychology at the baccalaureate degree level should consult the B.A. in Psychology Program ([link here](#)). The psychology bachelor's degree is separate from the Human Development Area of Study for students matriculated as of January 1, 2020.