

Research Methods in Developmental Psychology

Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to teach you the skills and concepts necessary to create, report, and evaluate scientific knowledge about human development. This includes:

- (1) understanding basic principles of scientific research, measurement, and experimental design;
- (2) understanding the special methodological challenges of developmental research;
- (3) communicating and working with young children as research participants;
- (4) considering ethical issues associated with research involving children;
- (5) using library and other resources to find out what is known about a research topic;
- (6) designing and conducting a research project with young children;
- (7) communicating research findings effectively, both orally and in writing;
- (8) evaluating others' research critically and constructively.

Overview

This is a laboratory course in which you will be engaged in “hands on” psychological research. The course is organized around two intertwined strands. One strand consists of classroom instruction (lectures, discussion, readings, homework, etc.) that covers a general introduction to research design and methodology, including: basic concepts about the scientific method, measurement, reliability, validity, experimental design, and settings for research. The second strand involves actually doing research. In this strand you will apply the basic concepts to a series of three projects. (See next section.)