Research Experience

Through the School Research Partnership, Certificate students gain valuable research experience while assisting local school district officials and other community leaders.

Curriculum

Certificate students complete six courses: four required courses and two electives. (Note: Up to two courses may be counted both towards the Certificate and towards the requirements of any major, minor or other certificate program.)

Core Courses (required)

- **Child Policy Research** (ChildPol 250S/PubPol 242S) This cornerstone course explores childhood’s major developmental stages and the complex social problems that affect children's development.

- **Methodology Course** (PubPol 241/ChildPol 241 or other) Certificate students acquire critical research skills through a hands-on methodology course: either ChildPol 241 or a research methods course offered by the student’s major department.

- **Independent Study or Honors Thesis** (ChildPol 350S or other) A chance to conduct scientific research on an issue affecting children and families. Past research topics have included juvenile delinquency, education policy, and adolescent substance abuse, among others.

- **Multidisciplinary Approaches to Contemporary Children’s Issues** (ChildPol 495S) This capstone course brings together the central themes of the Certificate program.

Core Courses (cont.)

- **Research Policy Practice**

Housed in the Center for Child and Family Policy, the Certificate program focuses on how research translates into practical solutions for children. Certificate students also gain skills they need to conduct effective policy-oriented research.

An Interdisciplinary Approach

The Certificate program reaches across boundaries between academic disciplines, enabling a rich understanding of the complexities of children’s lives. Its core classes provide students with solid grounding in child policy. Building on those core offerings, student work with a faculty mentor to customize an instructional program that spans different departments, including economics, sociology, psychology and public policy.

Research Fellowship

The Jacqueline A. Morris Fellowship provides financial support to selected Certificate students interested in conducting research in child and family policy.

Electives

In addition to the four required courses, students take two electives. These may include the child policy courses listed below or approved courses in psychology, public policy, sociology, economics and education.

- **Adolescence Today: Coming of Age in the Modern World** (ChildPol89S/PubPol89S)

- **Youth, Crime & Public Policy** (ChildPol89S/PubPol89S)

- **Making Social Policy** (ChildPol 634S/PubPol 563S/Soc 634S)

“The Certificate has truly helped me integrate and apply everything I’ve been learning across departments in my undergraduate career.”

-Nicole Schollmeyer ’13
With more than 45 faculty fellows and 25 research scientists, the Center for Child and Family Policy bridges the worlds of science and child policy. Our researchers pursue innovative solutions grounded in science. Center staffers work with policymakers and nonprofits to find research-based solutions for problems such as adolescent substance abuse, child abuse and more. The Center also promotes campus dialogue about child policy by hosting distinguished guest speakers. Center staff can help students pursue internships related to child policy. Students can work with the School Research Partnership, which pairs undergraduates with local school districts seeking help with research questions. Certificate students are also invited to apply for the Jacqueline A. Morris Fellowship, awarded each fall to a select number of undergraduates interested in child policy research.

More Information

Learn more about the Child Policy Research Certificate by visiting the Center for Child and Family Policy website: http://www.childandfamilypolicy.duke.edu/

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