

The Center for Child and Family Policy

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.

Child Policy Research Certificate



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POLICY

*Policy solutions for children and families,
based on scientific evidence.*

Research · Policy · Practice

The **Child Policy Research Certificate** offers Duke undergraduates a unique opportunity to explore child and family policy issues through interdisciplinary study, while working closely with faculty members to conduct original research on real-world policy issues. Many past students say the Certificate program was among the most meaningful parts of their Duke education.

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.

Conference Travel Opportunity

Certificate students are eligible for a travel award from the Center for Child and Family Policy, to attend the [American Educational Association Annual Meeting](#).

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.)

Required Courses

- **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 590S/ ChildPol 590S or other) Certificate students acquire critical research skills through a hands-on methodology course: either ChildPol 590S or a research methods course offered by the student's major department.
- **Independent Study or Honors Thesis** (ChildPol 393 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.

Electives

In addition to the four required courses, students take two electives. These may include the child policy courses listed [on the Center for Child and Family Policy website](#) or approved courses in psychology, public policy, sociology, history, economics, and education.

Research Fellowship

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

For more information, visit the Center for Child and Family Policy website: childandfamilypolicy.duke.edu/students/child-policy-research-certificate/

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