

## The Center for Child and Family Policy

With more than 45 faculty fellows and more than 30 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 assists undergraduates conducting research in local school districts.



# CHILD POLICY RESEARCH CERTIFICATE



**Duke** | **CENTER for CHILD  
SANFORD & FAMILY 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 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, students work with a faculty mentor to customize an interdisciplinary instructional program that may include courses in departments such as economics, sociology, psychology, and public policy.

## Curriculum

Certificate students complete six courses: four required courses and two electives. Up to two courses may be counted both toward the Certificate and toward 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 and families.
- **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, adolescent substance abuse, and healthcare inequities, 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.

### Conference Travel Opportunity

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

### Research Fellowship

The **Jacqueline A. Morris Fellowship** provides opportunities for financial support to undergraduate 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/](http://childandfamilypolicy.duke.edu/students/child-policy-research-certificate/)

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