

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/

Or contact:

Kathy Julian
Program Administrator
(919) 613-9303
kathy.julian@duke.edu

Clara Muschkin
Faculty Director
(919) 613-9302
muschkin@duke.edu