Duke SANFORD | CENTER *for* CHILD & FAMILY POLICY

CHILD POLICY RESEARCH CERTIFICATE

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 aspects of their Duke education.

Housed in the **Center for Child and Family Policy** (CCFP), the Certificate program **focuses on how research can translate 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 public policy, economics, sociology, psychology, neuroscience, and education.

Child Policy Research Certificate Requirements

- 3 required core courses
- 1 methodology course
- 2 electives from departments such as public policy, psychology and neuroscience, sociology, economics, and education

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 challenges that affect children and families.
- **Methodology Course.** Certificate students acquire critical research skills through a hands-on methodology course: either PubPol 590S/ChildPol 590S or a research methods course in 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 related fields.

Opportunities

Conference Travel

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,** the **Society for Research in Child Development,** and the **Society for Research on Adolescence**.

Research Fellowship

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

Career Series

The **CCFP Career Series** explores careers in child and family policy, featuring several speakers each spring and fall semester.

Internships

The Center often has **research assistant positions** open in the fall, spring, and summer semesters. Following university hiring protocol, all open positions at CCFP will be posted online at duke.studentemployment.ngwebsolutions.com.

Guest Speakers

CCFP also promotes campus dialogue about child policy by hosting distinguished guest speakers. Recent lectures have included the topics of school desegregation, international perspectives on parenting and child development, and creating more promising preschool programs.

To learn more about opportunities for undergraduate students, visit our website at
childandfamilypolicy.duke.edu/students/child-policy-research-certificate

Or scan the QR code:

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Center for Child and Family Policy

Mission Statement:

The Center for Child and Family Policy is dedicated to improving the well-being of children and families through research, education, and engagement. We study factors that influence child outcomes, develop and test promising interventions, and advance evidence-based practices and policies that can inform change and unlock opportunities for all children and their families.