The Program

Our doctoral program in human development offers a solid core of human development and research courses, plus specialized doctoral-level classes in wellness, counselor education and gerontology. This distinctive interdisciplinary approach gives each student exposure to perspectives and approaches outside their expertise. The aim is to produce doctoral graduates both with well-rounded skills in research, teaching and service and with a strong background in their chosen track.

Doctoral students work one-on-one with professors and have numerous opportunities to gain research and teaching experience.

Gerontology Doctoral Track

The elderly population is growing - locally, nationally and globally. By the middle of the 21st century, one in five Americans will be older than age 65, and there will be 15 to 18 million people age 85 or more.

Ph.D. graduates are needed to address the demands of this age group. According to the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, there are two emerging areas for working in this field:

DIRECT SERVICE: Working directly with older people in areas such as health-promotion programs or retirement communities; caring for the frail elderly; counseling older persons and their families; assisting persons with financial and personal preparation for retirement.

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH: Evaluating community-based services; conducting research on the aging process and its social and developmental aspects; teaching students, professionals and older adults about aging; developing aging policy; planning and administering programs; expanded opportunities in product development, marketing and consumer education.
How to Apply

Prospective candidates can apply online at www.ndsu.edu/gradschool.

A complete application to the doctoral program in human development will contain:

- Current vita
- Official transcript of all graduate and undergraduate work
- Three letters of recommendation
- Application for admission (Ph.D. in human development form and the NDSU application for the College of Graduate and Interdisciplinary Studies form).

To be considered for fall semester, all applications should be received by Feb. 1. Applications received after this date will be considered on a space-available basis.

For more information, contact us at (701) 231-8211, or go to our Web site at www.ndsu.edu/hde.

“I found the faculty to be a repository of wisdom with their experience and outstanding ideas.”

“It was rigorous but rewarding. I didn’t want a program that felt like it was watered down. I feel NDSU has a very high quality program.”

“The program was a wonderful experience for me. I appreciate it and I’ll look back fondly on it for the rest of my life. It truly changed my life for the better.”

Leah Bigatti, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Mahube Community Council, Inc.
Detroit Lakes, Minn.

Financial Assistance

A number of assistantships and scholarship opportunities are available. Graduate assistantships include a stipend and tuition waiver. Students who want to apply for a teaching or research assistantship should indicate this when applying to the doctoral program.

About NDSU

NDSU is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Established in 1890 as a land-grant university, NDSU now offers a reputation for research excellence and a vigorous emphasis on graduate-level education. It boasts an enrollment of more than 13,000 students.

NDSU is a thriving regional hub on the edge of the Great Plains and Minnesota lake country. Fargo, its sister city Moorhead, Minn., and surrounding communities have a population of more than 175,000. The area combines urban amenities — museums, arenas, mass transit, professional sports, and cultural events — with small-town convenience, safety and friendliness.

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