

Human Development  
and  
Family Science Department

**2022**  
**Developmental Science**  
**Ph.D. Student Manual**

College of Human Sciences and Education  
North Dakota State University

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## **Welcome!**

Welcome to Developmental Science at North Dakota State University! By coming to NDSU you've made a decision to study with active scholars with cutting edge research programs and state of the art research equipment and labs. You'll find yourself in a highly supportive environment designed to help you develop your own interests and skills in research and teaching, with faculty who genuinely care about your welfare and who are dedicated to helping you become the best professional you can be. And you'll be living in a vibrant college town environment regularly included in national rankings of "Best Places To Live."

### **The Substantive Area of Study**

Developmental Science is an exciting, rapidly emerging, interdisciplinary field. Here at NDSU, you'll find faculty who study both socioemotional and cognitive development across a variety of ages. Rather than being concerned with how groups of individuals at different ages differ from one another, our focus is on how individuals grow and develop over time, and particularly how this growth and development relates to a variety of contexts: family, social, and cultural.

Areas of study include young children's mastery motivation and persistence; cultural variances in parenting and early parent-infant communication; personality development in early childhood; prevention models in high-risk aggressive children; peer relations and victimization; optimal adolescent development; identity development in emerging adults; effective parenting and childhood outcomes; policy issues for children, adolescents, and older adults; intergenerational relationships; psychological well-being in old age; culture and aging; and cognitive development in middle and late adulthood. Students can choose to emphasize study in a particular age range, in a particular developmental domain, or in some combination of the two.

In addition, you'll find a strong emphasis on quantitative methodologies and their application to the study of development. To be able to address research questions in Developmental Science, a high degree of knowledge in advanced quantitative techniques is required, and our program will provide you with those skills.

### **Other Substantive Areas in the HDFFS Department**

In addition to Developmental Science, the department also provides Masters level training in Gerontology, Family Financial Planning, and Youth Development. These are totally on-line programs, and are a collaboration between NDSU and a number of other institutions across the Great Plains. For further information on other areas represented in the department, please see [www.ndsu.edu/hdfs](http://www.ndsu.edu/hdfs).

### **Your Admission into Developmental Science**

You were chosen for admission into our program for a variety of reasons. First and foremost, your past academic record and your application materials indicate a superior level of academic achievement and high potential for the pursuit of an advanced degree.

Second, your materials indicate the personal maturity and the level of commitment necessary for success in this endeavor. Finally, the professional goals and interests indicated in your application show a high degree of overlap with both the overall goals of the departments as well as the individual research interests of the faculty.

### **Research And Instructional Facilities**

**Center for Child Development.** The Center for Child Development provides an early childhood program that is accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs, a division of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Through a laboratory program, the Center provides research opportunities for NDSU students and faculty interested in young children. The Center has a capacity of 38 children ranging in age from 6 months to 5 years, and each room of the center is observable from an observation booth equipped with one-way glass and an audio system.

**Center for Writers.** The Center for Writers serves the NDSU community by providing free writing assistance to students, faculty, and staff in all departments at all levels in the following ways: by providing a supportive environment where writers and readers work efficiently one- on-one or in small groups; by helping students improve their strategies for writing proficiently and independently; by training writing tutors to become effective readers of and responders to texts from various disciplines; by helping faculty develop and refine writing assignments and assess student writing effectively and efficiently; by helping faculty and staff with questions about their own writing.

**Graduate Center and Stop and Go Center.** The “Graduate Center” building at the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 12<sup>th</sup> Street and the SGC at the corner of 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and University Drive include faculty labs and student office spaces. Graduate research assistants can have desk space and computers available.

**Group Decision Center.** The GDC is a technology laboratory that provides GroupSystems software enabling anonymous discussion among small groups of participants. Students can use the GDC to conduct anonymous focus group interviews. Transcripts of all discussions are automatically generated.

**Information Technology Services.** Information Technology Services (ITS) provides instructional, research, and administrative computing resources and communications infrastructure support for the University. ITS provides clusters of computers, UNIX workstations, printers, documentation, and software in half a dozen locations around campus (including in the Family Life Center and EML Hall). ITS staff offers non-credit seminars on topics such as end-user computing, text and statistical processing, and microcomputers. Statistical consultants are also available to assist in analyzing research data.

**Libraries.** As a member of the Tri-College University, the NDSU Libraries share resources with Moorhead State University and Concordia College. NDSU library cards are valid at all

NDSU, MSU, and Concordia libraries. The Interlibrary Loan Service and Document Delivery Service provide access to books, articles, and other materials not available at the NDSU libraries. The on-line catalog interfaces with other on-line catalogs in North Dakota, Minnesota, the remainder of the United States, and Canada. The NDSU libraries also possess multiple databases accessible on-line. The Libraries offer a variety of library instruction services including: tours and orientation; course-related instruction in specific subject areas; and demonstrations of special services and information formats. Library subject specialists, including a Social Sciences librarian, are also available by appointment to provide in-depth assistance in locating and using various print and electronic information resources.

**Online survey hosting service.** The university has a license to use Qualtrics survey software, which provides a secure platform for online research questionnaires.

**NDSU Student Research Listserv.** NDSU has a voluntary student research listserv for study recruitment purposes. If you wish to recruit NDSU students for your study, you can send your recruitment notice to: [nds-res-part@listserv.nodak.edu](mailto:nds-res-part@listserv.nodak.edu)

## **Graduate Student Responsibilities**

Graduate school differs from your undergraduate experience. You will need to take on more responsibility and initiative than you did in college in order to successfully complete the Ph.D. program. You will need to plan your program, attend classes, complete independent projects, and leave sufficient time for reading, writing, and thinking. In addition, you may NOT be enrolled in another graduate program outside of DS without advisor/committee approval, with the exception of a dual degree in Gerontology or a certificate program.

More specifically, it is your responsibility to know what classes you need, take these classes when offered, meet with your major professor, know when deadlines are, and know what forms need to be completed and when to hand them in. Everyone in the department supports you and wants you to succeed; however, it is your responsibility to be prepared for classes and examinations. Time and motivation are needed to fulfill the demands of your classes, assistantship, and dissertation. In order to be successful in your graduate work, you will need to outline your goals and work towards them.

In this manual you will find an outline of major steps and a timeline. Remember, it is your responsibility to notify the appropriate offices and faculty members that all these steps have been completed. Therefore, it will be your task to find out what you need to do (and by when) to complete the steps.

When you have questions or concerns, there are a number of people you can talk to. Your first contact should be your advisor. You may also wish to speak to the Interim Developmental Science Coordinator (Melissa O'Connor) or the HDFS department head (Joel Hektner). In some cases, you may also be referred to a staff member at the Graduate School.

## **Important Offices And Phone Numbers**

### Human Development and Family Science Department

Department Head: Joel Hektner.....231-8269  
 Interim DS Coordinator: Melissa O'Connor.....231-8688  
 Department Office Manager: Maggie Skrogstad.....231-8268

Customer Account Services (Business Office).....231-7320  
 Financial Aid Office .....231-7533  
 Graduate School .....231-7033  
 Registrar.....231-7981

### Faculty Labs and Student Office Spaces

Dr. Fuller's Lab  
 "Graduate Center" Rooms 209 & 211 and EML 283i  
 Dr. Wang's Lab  
 Stop and Go Center Room c141  
 Other Faculty Labs and Student Space  
 "Graduate Center" First and Second Floor  
 Teaching Assistant Office (Students can reserve)  
 EML 283k

## **Program Requirements**

### **Basic Structure of the Program**

Although students seek the Ph.D. for many different reasons, the doctoral program in Developmental Science is based on three components:

1. instruction in the fundamental research findings and theories of developmental science,
2. training in the creation and conduct of research, and
3. teaching experience in academic settings.

Students may enter the Developmental Science Doctoral program with either a Bachelor's degree or a Master's degree. If a student enters with a Bachelor's degree (or graduate degree in a field unrelated to developmental science) the student will enter the 5-year track that consists of 90 credits. If a student enters having completed a Master's degree and empirical thesis in HDFFS, Developmental Science/Psychology, or another related field, upon faculty approval, the student may enter the 3-year track consisting of 60 credits for completion of the doctoral degree.

The doctoral program is, roughly speaking, divided into two phases: pre-candidacy and candidacy. Pre-candidacy comprises the period of study up to the comprehensive/preliminary examination. During this period, students become familiar with major theories and research and acquire the depth of knowledge considered necessary for high-level, independent developmental research. After reaching candidacy, students focus primarily on their dissertation, although they are encouraged to work on other projects within their areas of interest. A student formally has reached candidacy when he or she has taken the required courses, passed the qualifying exam, has turned in a satisfactory thesis project, and completed the comprehensive exam (i.e. dissertation proposal). Usually students reach candidacy during their third year in the program.



**Curriculum for students entering with a Bachelor's degree (90 credits total)**

- Students earn a Master's degree after completing 30 credits, including the master's thesis and master's oral examination.
- All courses 3 credits unless otherwise noted.
  
- Development core (12 credits)
  - HDFS 811 Concepts and Theories of Developmental Science
  - HDFS 813 Social and Emotional Development across the Lifespan
  - HDFS 815 Cognitive and Physical Development across the Lifespan
  - HDFS 817 Prevention Science
  
- Teaching core (6 credits)
  - Teaching course: HDFS 802 or COMM 702 or STEM 810
  - HDFS 892 Graduate Teaching Experience
  
- Methodology and statistics core (10 credits)
  - HDFS 705 Quantitative Methods in Developmental Science (4 credits)
  - An advanced quantitative methods course (HDFS 854 Advanced Quantitative Methods in Developmental Science or other course approved by advisor and committee or program coordinator)
  - Longitudinal quantitative methods course (either HDFS 856 Longitudinal Research Methods and Analysis or PSYC 762 Advanced Research Methods and Analysis)
  
- Electives (15 credits)
  - Must include 9 credits in didactic 700- or 800-level courses (in HDFS or other departments) (HDFS 824, 825, or 826 recommended)
  - Can include, distributed in varying credit amounts across multiple semesters:
    - HDFS 893 Individual Study (research): maximum of 6 additional credits (beyond the 18 required)
    - HDFS 894 Practicum, focus on teaching or non-academic role
  
- Non-didactic Courses (8 credits)
  - HDFS 801 Graduate Orientation (1 credit)
  - HDFS 805 Professional Development in Developmental Science (1 credit)
  - HDFS 890 Seminar: Qualls Prep / Career Dev (6 credits total)
    - 2 credits during spring before doing qualifying exam
    - 2 credits in summer during qualifying exam
    - 2 credits during final year to focus on career development
  
- Independent Research (39 credits)
  - HDFS 893 Individual Study (research) (18 credits)
  - HDFS 798 Master's Thesis (6 credits)
  - HDFS 899 Dissertation (15 credits)

### **Master's Degree Plan of Study for those entering with a Bachelor's degree**

The Plan of Study for the Master's Degree in this program requires exactly 30 credits (no more or less), although students may be taking more than 30 credits in their first two years in the program. The additional credits will be counted on the Doctoral Plan of Study. The following courses should be listed on the Master's Degree Plan of Study:

- HDFS 801 Graduate Orientation, 1 credit
- HDFS 805 Professional Development in Developmental Science, 1 credit
- HDFS 811 Concepts and Theories of Developmental Science
- HDFS 813 Social and Emotional Development across the Lifespan
- HDFS 815 Cognitive and Physical Development across the Lifespan
- HDFS 817 Prevention Science
- HDFS 705 Quantitative Methods in Developmental Science, 4 credits
- An advanced quantitative methods course approved by advisor and committee or program coordinator
- HDFS 893 Individual Study (Research), 3 credits
- HDFS 798 Master's Thesis (6 credits)

### **Doctoral Degree Plan of Study for those entering with a Bachelor's degree**

The Plan of Study for the Doctoral Degree in this program requires at least 60 credits. The following courses should be listed on the Doctoral Degree Plan of Study. This list totals 60 credits.

- HDFS 802 or COMM 702 or STEM 810
- HDFS 892 Graduate Teaching Experience
- HDFS 856 or PSYC 762
- XXXX xxx Elective (other didactic)
- XXXX xxx Elective (other didactic)
- XXXX xxx Elective (other didactic)
- HDFS xxx Elective (6 credits other)
  - \*at least 9 elective credits must be didactic courses at the 700-800 level
- HDFS 890 Seminar Quals/Career (6 credits)
- HDFS 893 Individual Study (15 credits)
- HDFS 899 Dissertation (15 credits)

**Suggested Course Schedule for Students Entering with Bachelor's Degree****Entering Odd Fall****FIRST YEAR**

<u>Odd Fall</u>	<u>Even Spring</u>
705 Quantitative (4)	813 Soc/Emot (3)
801 Orientation (1)	805 Prof Dev (1)
815 Cog/Phys (3)	Longitudinal Quant (3)
893 Research (1)	893 Research (1)
	798 Thesis (1)

9 total credits      9 total credits

*-Select committee/ Plan of Study**-Summer Optional: 798 Thesis***SECOND YEAR**

<u>Even Fall</u>	<u>Odd Spring</u>
817 Prevention (3)	Elective (3)
Advanced Quant (3)	811 Theory (3)
893 Research (1)	890 Qual Exam Prep (2)
798 Thesis (3)	798 Thesis (2)

10 total credits      10 total credits

*-Propose thesis**-Defend thesis**-Ph.D. Plan of Study***Summer: 890 Qualifying Exam (2)****THIRD YEAR**

<u>Odd Fall</u>	<u>Even Spring</u>
Elective (3)	Elective (3)
Teaching Course (3)	Elective (3)
893 Research (4)	893 Research (4)

10 total credits      10 total credits

*-Propose dissertation (Comps)***FOURTH YEAR**

<u>Even Fall</u>	<u>Odd Spring</u>
893 Research (4)	893 Research (3)
899 Dissertation (2)	899 Dissertation (3)
*Elective or 892 (3)	*Elective or 892 (3)

9 total credits      9 total credits

**FIFTH YEAR**

<u>Odd Fall</u>	<u>Even Spring</u>
890 Career Dev (1)	890 Career Dev (1)
899 Dissertation (5)	899 Dissertation (5)

6 total credits      6 total credits

*-Defend dissertation*\*complete teaching experience (892) fall or spring of 4<sup>th</sup> year**Entering Even Fall****FIRST YEAR**

<u>Even Fall</u>	<u>Odd Spring</u>
Quant or Elective (3)	Elective (3)
801 Orientation (1)	805 Prof Dev (1)
817 Prevention (3)	811 Theory (3)
893 Research (2)	893 Research (1)
	798 Thesis (1)

9 total credits      9 total credits

*-Select committee/Plan of Study**-Summer Optional: 798 Thesis***SECOND YEAR**

<u>Odd Fall</u>	<u>Even Spring</u>
705 Quantitative (4)	Longitudinal Quant (3)
815 Cog/Phys (3)	813 Soc/Emot (3)
	890 Qual Exam Prep (2)
798 Thesis (3)	798 Thesis (2)

10 total credits      10 total credits

*-Propose thesis**-Defend thesis**-Ph.D. Plan of Study***Summer: 890 Qualifying Exam (2)****THIRD YEAR**

<u>Even Fall</u>	<u>Odd Spring</u>
Quant or Elective (3)	Elective (3)
Teaching Course (3)	Elective (3)
893 Research (4)	893 Research (4)

10 total credits      10 total credits

*-Propose dissertation (Comps)***FOURTH YEAR**

<u>Odd Fall</u>	<u>Even Spring</u>
893 Research (4)	893 Research (3)
899 Dissertation (2)	899 Dissertation (3)
*Elective or 892 (3)	*Elective or 892 (3)

9 total credits      9 total credits

**FIFTH YEAR**

<u>Even Fall</u>	<u>Odd Spring</u>
890 Career Dev (1)	890 Career Dev (1)
899 Dissertation (5)	899 Dissertation (5)

6 total credits      6 total credits

*-Defend dissertation*\*complete teaching experience (892) fall or spring of 4<sup>th</sup> year

## **Curriculum for students entering with a Master's degree (60 credits total)**

- Students may follow this track only if their Master's degree and thesis was approved by the Developmental Science Committee upon admission.
- Additional coursework may be necessary to compensate for courses not taken.
- All courses 3 credits unless otherwise noted.
  
- Development core (12 credits; possible to substitute other courses with committee approval)
  - HDFS 811 Concepts and Theories of Developmental Science
  - HDFS 813 Social and Emotional Development across the Lifespan
  - HDFS 815 Cognitive and Physical Development across the Lifespan
  - HDFS 817 Prevention Science
  
- Teaching core (6 credits)
  - Teaching course: HDFS 802 or COMM 702 or STEM 810
  - HDFS 892 Graduate Teaching Experience
  
- Methodology and statistics core (6 credits)
  - An advanced quantitative methods course (HDFS 854 Advanced Quantitative Methods in Developmental Science or other quant course approved by advisor and committee or program coordinator)
  - Longitudinal quantitative methods course (either HDFS 856 Longitudinal Research Methods and Analysis or PSYC 762 Advanced Research Methods and Analysis)
  
- Didactic elective (3 credits): could include HDFS 824, 825, 826, or 700- or 800-level course in HDFS or other department.
  
- Non-didactic Courses (8 credits total)
  - HDFS 801 Graduate Orientation (1 credit)
  - HDFS 805 Professional Development in Developmental Science (1 credit)
  - HDFS 890 Quals Prep / Career Dev (6 credits total)
    - 2 credits during spring before doing qualifying exam
    - 2 credit in summer during qualifying exam
    - 2 credits during final year to focus on career development
  
- Research Credits (25 credits total)
  - HDFS 893 Individual Study (research) (10 credits)
  - HDFS 899 Dissertation (15 credits)

**Doctoral Degree Plan of Study for those entering with a Master’s degree**

The Plan of Study for the Doctoral Degree requires at least 60 hours.

**Suggested Course Schedule for Students Entering with a Master’s Degree**

(Note: Schedule may vary depending on prior educational background)

**Entering Odd Fall**

**Entering Even Fall**

**FIRST YEAR**

<u>Odd Fall</u>	<u>Even Spring</u>
Elective (3)	Longitudinal Quant (3)
801 Orientation (1)	805 Prof Dev (1)
815 Cog/Phys (3)	813 Soc/Emot (3)
893 Research (2)	893 Research (2)
9 total credits	9 total credits
<i>-Select committee/ Plan of Study</i>	
<i>-Plan of Study meeting: Approve QE timeline</i>	
<i>-Summer option: 893 or 899 (2 or 3)</i>	

**FIRST YEAR**

<u>Even Fall</u>	<u>Odd Spring</u>
Advanced Quant (3)	Elective (3)
801 Orientation (1)	805 Prof Dev (1)
817 Prevention (3)	811 Theory (3)
893 Research (2)	893 Research (2)
9 total credits	9 total credits
<i>-Select committee/ Plan of Study</i>	
<i>-Plan of Study Meeting: Approve QE timeline</i>	
<i>-Summer option: 893 or 899 (2 or 3)</i>	

**SECOND YEAR**

<u>Even Fall</u>	<u>Odd Spring</u>
817 Prevention (3)	811 Theories (3)
Advanced Quant (3)	893 Research (4)
Teaching Course (3)	890 Qual Exam Prep (2)
893 Research (1)	899 Dissertation (2)
10 total credits	11 total credits

**SECOND YEAR**

<u>Odd Fall</u>	<u>Even Spring</u>
815 Cog/Phys (3)	Longitudinal Quant (3)
Teaching Course (3)	813 Soc/Emot (3)
893 Research (4)	893 Research (1)
	890 Qual Exam Prep (2)
	899 Dissertation (2)
10 total credits	11 total credits

**Summer:** 890 Qualifying Exam (2)

**Summer:** 890 Qualifying Exam (2)

**THIRD YEAR**

<u>Odd Fall</u>	<u>Even Spring</u>
*892 Teaching (3)	890 Career Dev (1)
890 Career Dev (1)	893 Research (1)
899 Dissertation (6)	899 Dissertation (7)
10 total credits	9 total credits
<i>-Propose dissertation</i>	<i>-Defend dissertation</i>
<i>*complete teaching experience (892) during 3rd year</i>	

**THIRD YEAR**

<u>Even Fall</u>	<u>Odd Spring</u>
*892 Teaching (3)	890 Career Dev (1)
890 Career Dev (1)	893 Research (1)
899 Dissertation (6)	899 Dissertation (7)
10 total credits	9 total credits
<i>-Propose dissertation</i>	<i>-Defend dissertation</i>
<i>*complete teaching experience (892) during 3<sup>rd</sup> year</i>	

-Some students may need to take more than 3 years to complete all requirements. Students in the Gerontology PhD program will take 3.5 years and may receive funding for that time.

## **Additional Program Requirements**

### **1. Teaching Requirements**

All students are required to teach one undergraduate course, with supervision, for course credit in HDFS 892 (3 credits). Before teaching, students must have first taken HDFS 802/COMM 702/STEM 810 and earned a minimum grade of a B, as well as taken two courses out of HDFS 811, 813, 815, and 817. In addition, students must have prior experience assisting an instructor with a course before teaching their own course. The initial course that all students will teach will be a face-to-face version of either HDFS 230 Lifespan Development or HDFS 250 Research Methods. Students will be assigned to teach either one of these courses. Students are encouraged to shadow (can be for credit) the course they will teach the semester before teaching and are allowed to register for credits to prepare materials the semester before teaching if approved by his/her supervisory committee.

For students who plan careers as college professors, multiple teaching experiences are recommended. After the completion of the required teaching practicum of either HDFS 230 or HDFS 250, students may be considered for additional teaching opportunities. Additional experiences may be worked out for credit or as part of an assistantship.

### **2. Research Requirements Beyond the Thesis and Dissertation**

Research competence is central to the attainment of the Ph.D. degree. The emphasis on research is reflected in the fact that the completion of an original piece of research, the dissertation, constitutes one of the major requirements for awarding the Ph.D. In collaboration with their major advisor, students are to develop a program of research. Students should be consistently engaged in research during the entire course of their program. In addition to the Master's thesis and doctoral dissertation, students are expected to show competency in research activity, presentation, and publication.

#### **A. Presentation of Research**

- Submit at least 4 proposal/abstracts for presentations or posters at national conferences. The student must be first author for at least 2 of these. (If entering with a Master's, submit at least 2, with first authorship on at least 1).
- Present (in person) at least twice at national conferences (once if enter with MS), unless a waiver is granted by the student's committee.

#### **B. Publication of Research**

- Submit at least 2 peer-reviewed articles for publication, at least one of which must be as first author.

Although these presentation and publication requirements do not carry course credit per se, they are projects that would be worked on as part of HDFS 893 and/or HDFS 899.

### 3. Completing Annual Activity Reports for Evaluation of Progress

Every year, you are required to submit an Annual Activity Report for Evaluation of Progress along with a cumulative CV. A form for this report will be provided by the DS coordinator. If you will be graduating in May or August of the current year, you do not need to submit an annual report. The report and vita are due on April 15th and should be turned in as an email attachment to Maggie Skrogstad, department office manager. Please note that you **MUST** receive approval from your advisor before submitting.

**A. Basis for Evaluation.** The nature of graduate education is different than that experienced in typical undergraduate programs. As such, the evaluation of a graduate student's academic performance may include, but is not necessarily limited to, assessing the student's knowledge of the academic discipline, the student's ability to apply that knowledge to discipline-specific problem-solving situations, and evaluation of the quality of a student's judgment in problem solving.

In addition, faculty will also assess the student's ethical behavior consistent with the professional ethical standards of the discipline. Because of the need to work well with others, faculty will also assess a student's interpersonal interactions in carrying out the work necessary to complete a course of graduate education and to ensure the orderly functioning of the academic department. In short, character and conduct are critical to students' academic evaluation and possibly the attainment of their graduate degrees.

**B. Professional Standards for Developmental Science Doctoral Students.** Professionalism is an important component of success in a graduate program and career. Students will be evaluated yearly on the following elements of professional behavior as part of the annual evaluation:

1. Initiative and motivation
2. Flexibility
3. Professionalism in Relationships
4. Professional decorum
5. Attention to ethical and legal considerations
6. Quality and excellence in performance

#### **Initiative and Motivation**

- \* Demonstrates initiative in seeking out opportunities.
- \* Shows creativity in professional activities.
- \* Demonstrates motivation through going above minimum standards
- \* Reliable in meeting deadlines.

#### **Flexibility**

- \* *Openness to new ideas.* Is not dogmatic about own perspective, but instead is open to multiple perspectives. Forms ideas based on best available scientific evidence. Recognizes changing professional demands and changes behaviors accordingly.
- \* *Adaptable to changing events.* Demonstrates flexibility when changes are needed in established schedule or duties (e.g., additional assistantship responsibilities).

\* *Willingness to accept and use feedback.* Students are expected to view feedback as a growth opportunity that is intrinsic to the learning processes and therefore the student role. Students should invite constructive feedback without defensiveness, seek to fully understand feedback, and integrate (or incorporate) the feedback into future behavior.

### **Professionalism in Relationships**

\* *Ability to get along well with others.* Demonstrates willingness to compromise with others to meet group and individual goals. Willing to consider others' point of view. Pleasant in interactions.

\* *Deals well with conflict.* Recognizes the impact of own words and actions on others. Examines own role in conflict, and keeps disagreements on a professional level.

\* *Communicates effectively.* Articulates positions in a clear manner.

\* *Respects others' time.* Arrives on time, does not cancel meetings without advanced notice, is organized and prepared for meetings and class

### **Maintains professional decorum**

\* *Recognizes role as a representative of the program including using language, dress, relationship boundaries, and behavior appropriate to context.*

\* Professional appearance (including clothing and grooming) is appropriate to the setting and context.

\* Uses professional language and behaviors in professional settings.

\* Maintains professional boundaries in relationships with faculty, staff, and fellow students.

\* Avoids dual relationships with undergraduates with whom is in a supervisory relationship (e.g., TA/instructor, lab supervisor, etc.).

### **Attention to ethical and legal considerations**

\* *Seeks to educate oneself about professional ethics, including in the context of research and teaching (e.g., IRB training, FERPA training).* Adheres to relevant ethical and legal guidelines.

### **Quality and excellence in performance**

\* *Demonstrates a high level of excellence and ability in performance of program responsibilities.* Puts forth best effort rather than being content with meeting a minimum standard.

**C. Letters of Evaluation and Categories of Standing.** Each year, you will be provided with a written letter of evaluation of progress. In this letter, the developmental science faculty members will evaluate your progress with respect to coursework, research, teaching, thesis/dissertation, departmental involvement, service, and professional behavior during the current year and over time. The committee will provide recommendations on areas that need additional attention in order to successfully complete the program. You will fall under one of the following evaluation categories:



**“Excellent Standing”** = a student who is exceeding expectations in regards to coursework, research, teaching, and thesis/dissertation (e.g., overall GPA and course grades, participation in scholarly work, etc.) and meeting expectations in regards to service and professional behavior (e.g., involvement in two or more service opportunities, meeting deadlines, etc.)

**“Good Standing”** = a student who is meeting expectations in regards to coursework, research, teaching, thesis/dissertation, service, and professional behavior

**“Needs Improvement”** = a student who is struggling but showing signs of potential in regards to coursework, research, teaching, thesis/dissertation, service, and professional behavior

**“Marginal Standing”** = a student who needs substantial improvement in one of the following areas: coursework, research, teaching, thesis/dissertation, service, or professional behavior

**“Inadequate Progress”** = a student who needs substantial improvement in two or more of the following areas: coursework, research, teaching, thesis/dissertation, service, or professional behavior

**D. Improvement Plan.** Students who are evaluated as either “Marginal Standing” or “Inadequate Progress” must provide a written response to the evaluation letter within 30 days and give this response to the graduate coordinator. The response should include a detailed plan agreed upon by the student and her/his advisor that specifies how the student can regain good standing. The plan must include specific strategies and deadlines for addressing the problematic areas identified by faculty members. The student will be required to submit another annual report in the fall semester, by December 1<sup>st</sup>, to the graduate coordinator. The student will then be re-evaluated by the developmental science faculty members, and evidence of satisfactory improvement must be demonstrated at that time.

**E. Funding and Program Termination.** Students who are evaluated as in “Marginal Standing” or “Inadequate Progress” may have funding removed for part or all of an upcoming semester. If no improvement is seen by the next annual report, the student will not be eligible for an assistantship the following year. Students who routinely do not complete their required assistantship hours for a semester may also lose part or all of their funding. Students who do not complete the annual report will automatically lose their funding.

After the second year in the program, the developmental science faculty will determine whether students will be allowed to continue in the program. Some possible reasons for dismissal from the program at the second year review may include, but are not limited to: multiple grades of C or lower, repeated program standing of “Needs Improvement” or below, and/or lack of professional behavior.

#### **4. Filing Plan(s) of Study with the Graduate School**

All graduate students in degree programs must file a Plan of Study with the Graduate School. The plan specifies the courses you have taken and plan to take, as well as your major advisor and committee members. Students need to file one plan for the Master's degree and a separate plan for the doctoral degree.

The Master's Degree Plan of Study must be filed by the end of your second semester.

The Doctoral Degree Plan of Study must be filed by the end of the second semester for students entering with a Master's degree. For students entering with a Bachelor's degree, it must be filed by the end of the fourth semester.

#### **5. Completion of the Master's Thesis and Oral Examination**

To complete the Master's thesis proposal, thesis, and oral examination, students entering with a Bachelor's degree will follow procedures which are parallel to those outlined in the section in this manual on the doctoral dissertation.

A student's Master's thesis is comprised of at least three faculty members, including the student's advisor. Two members must be core Developmental Science faculty, and the third member must serve as the Graduate School representative and cannot be HDFS faculty. Members of a student's Master's thesis committee do not need to be the same as the members of his/her dissertation committee.

Students who plan to make significant use of faculty time or university resources to work on a thesis must enroll in HDFS 798, commonly called "thesis credits." Students enrolling in thesis credits must complete a thesis contract and submit it to the department secretary in order to receive permission to enroll. This contract must be signed by the student and the student's major professor, who must agree on and document the number of credits and the goals that will be achieved during the semester to earn those credits. Careful consideration of these goals is important, as they form the basis for grading the thesis credits. The possible grades that could be received for thesis credits are S (Satisfactory) or U (Unsatisfactory). In order to achieve an 'S' the student must complete all the goals set forth in the thesis contract.

Each semester that a student plans to work on the thesis, a new thesis contract must be completed. Students planning to make use of faculty time in the summer must also complete a contract and enroll in thesis credits for the summer term. Students not working on a thesis but needing to maintain continuous enrollment (and not taking a leave of absence) must also complete a contract and enroll in at least 1 thesis credit each fall and spring term.

#### **6. Qualifying Examination**

A qualifying examination will be required of each student after the student has passed the core developmental courses (811, 813, 815, and 817) or has passed the final exams for these courses if entering with a master's degree. After passing the qualifying exam and completing all requirements for the master of science degree, the student will be allowed to proceed with a dissertation proposal.

**A. Purpose.** The purpose of qualifying examination is to assess whether the student has acquired the requisite understanding of the general fundamental knowledge of the discipline and the critical thinking ability to elaborate and execute a sound research plan for their dissertation.

**B. The Qualifying Examination Committee.** The Qualifying Examination (QE) committee will be comprised of all members of the Developmental Science core faculty. The QE committee will be charged with distributing a reading list and exam questions, and facilitating grading of the written exams.

**C. Timeline.** The qualifying exam is administered during the summer after the student has completed the core developmental courses (811, 813, 815, and 817).

- Students receive a resource list in January. Previous reading lists are also posted on the DS Resources Blackboard site online.
- Students enroll in 2 credits of 890 during spring semester (pass/fail), supervised by their advisor. The sole assignment is to prepare for the exam. Plans for preparation and time management should be discussed with the advisor.
- Students must write and submit 2 sample questions to the chair of the QE committee by April 1.
- All four questions for the exam will be provided to students on the Monday after the semester ends in May.
- Students may not discuss the exam questions or answers with other students at any time. Students will sign a form stating this (please see last page of the manual).
- Students enroll in 2 credits of 890 during the summer (pass/fail). The sole assignment is to complete the exam.
- A written response to one question is due at the end of each week from the date the exam questions were first provided. Students are required to submit an electronic copy of each response. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- Students will receive feedback and grades on their exams within 2 weeks after the submission of the final response of the final student submission.
- If students need to revise and resubmit a response, that revised response is due 1 week after grades are received.

In special circumstances, if the student has considerable difficulty with this timeline, he or she may petition the QE committee for a variation in the scheduling. This request must be made in writing and approved, in writing, by the QE committee.

#### **D. Format and Content**

*Written examination.* The qualifying exam will consist of responses to a set of 4 questions selected by the QE committee covering four broad areas: core developmental concepts and issues, socio-emotional development, cognitive/biological development, and research methodology. The examination questions are essay questions, and responses should include citations to appropriate sources as well as headings and subheadings to show organization. Responses should be double-spaced in 12-point Times New Roman font

with 1-inch margins. Each response should be 6 to 7 pages (excluding references) and should not exceed these page limits. Responses should have a header with the student's chosen 3-digit ID number, the question number, and page numbers. Students should present succinct, organized, and coherent responses.

Exam responses must be the student's own work; the student is not allowed to accept any kind of assistance, including proofreading assistance. In constructing responses, the student may paraphrase portions of his/her own previously written work, but he/she may not include any verbatim portions of prior work.

The examination requires students to organize their own thoughts about core developmental topics. A student's performance on the examination should reflect the breadth and depth of knowledge that he or she has gained during graduate training. The student will be asked to demonstrate ways in which the key principles of development are manifest across multiple domains. The reading list is provided as a starting point for the student's responses, but we expect the student to draw upon additional resources in framing his/her response to each question. Good answers will involve the integration of theories and research across a broad range of material. Responses should not merely summarize or reiterate theories and research findings, but rather should creatively integrate, argue, and synthesize. In sum, the exam provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate their understanding of relevant research and theory, and their ability to critically and creatively construct and argue a unique position.

**E. Evaluation.** Student identity will be kept anonymous until after the exams are graded. Students should avoid obvious self-references in their answers. All student responses will be run through plagiarism detection software. The identity of the faculty member who graded each question will be revealed to the students after grading is completed. Each question on the examination is read and graded by (at least) two faculty members using a 5-point rating scale corresponding to the letter grades A through F. Each letter grade is assigned its traditional a point value (A = 4 points, B = 3, C = 2, D = 1, F = 0). Examination responses will be assigned to faculty graders by members of the QE committee. Graders will send a copy of the response with grades and comments to the QE committee. All graders must provide details about the basis of the grade.

The committee will aggregate the responses, identify and work to resolve any inconsistencies among grades, and notify the faculty and students of the results. If a large discrepancy occurs between raters on a given question (2 points or more), the question is evaluated by a third rater. The numerical scores from all graders of a question are averaged to determine the score for that question. The scores from all 4 questions are averaged to determine the overall score for the exam.

*Pass and Pass with Distinction.* The minimum passing grade on the exam is 3.0, with no individual question score lower than 2.0. Students whose exam grade before any revisions is 3.5 or higher, with no individual question grade lower than 3.0, will have passed the exam with distinction, an honor that can be listed on their CV.

*Failure with Opportunity to Revise.* To determine whether a student who initially failed the exam will be given an opportunity to revise, do the following: Take the lowest question grade, substitute 4.0 for that grade, and recalculate the average exam grade. If that

average is 3.0 or higher and no other question grade is lower than 2.0, then the student is allowed to revise one question that was initially graded less than 3.0. If there is more than one question that was initially graded less than 3.0, the student can choose which one of those questions to revise. In making revisions, the student must carefully review the graders' comments. No other feedback or consultations will occur. The student will have 1 week to complete a revision and resubmit to the QE committee; late submissions will not be accepted. The revised response will then be graded by the original readers within 2 weeks after the submission.

If after revision, the student's exam score is still below 3.0 or still includes a question score lower than 2.0, the student will have failed the exam with no further revision opportunities.

*Failure with no Opportunity to Revise.* If there would be no possible way that revision of one question could result in a revised average exam score of 3.0 or greater with no question score lower than 2.0, then the student will not be allowed to revise and will have failed the exam.

**F. Options after failure of the qualifying examination.** Students who fail the exam once MUST meet with the DS committee or a subcommittee and develop a remediation plan. This meeting must take place within 4 weeks after failure of the exam. Then the student may be allowed to retake the exam the next time it is offered, dependent on whether the student has passed his/her second year review. Thus, not passing the qualifying exam will very likely extend the student's time in the program. If a student fails the exam a second time, the DS committee will meet to decide whether the student will be allowed to try again. This decision will be made based on a review of the student's academic and research competencies, as well as his/her professional behavior. A two-thirds affirmative vote by the developmental science faculty, as well as the agreement of a major advisor, is necessary for the student to be allowed to continue in the program and try the exam again the next time it is offered.

## **7. Doctoral Dissertation, Comprehensive/Preliminary Exam, and Final Oral Examination**

The culmination of research training for the Ph.D. is the doctoral dissertation. This dissertation takes the form of original empirical research designed, conducted, analyzed, and written by the candidate.

**A. Dissertation Course Credits.** Students enrolling in dissertation credits must complete a Dissertation contract and submit it to the department secretary in order to receive permission to enroll. The student and major advisor will complete the contract, which specifies the expected outcomes during the semester. Dissertation credits will be graded as satisfactory or unsatisfactory. If a student does not adequately meet the written goals for the semester, credits will have to be retaken.

**B. Dissertation Forms and Format.** Guidance for Graduate School requirements regarding dissertations can be found on the Graduate School website. The website includes

information about formatting the dissertation and links to forms for scheduling the comprehensive/preliminary examination and final examination (the defense), as well as for participating in commencement. The student should become familiar with these forms and deadlines well in advance of completing the dissertation proposal and final document.

**C. Dissertation Content.** Dissertation topics and methods are agreed upon by the candidate and the dissertation committee in the proposal phase of dissertation work. Experimental laboratory research, survey research, naturalistic observations, etc., are all appropriate. Dissertation data can be collected by the candidate individually, or as part of a larger research team, or involve analyses of already collected data from some appropriate large-scale database. In all cases, however, the questions, analyses, and write up must reflect the student's original thinking and efforts.

A typical dissertation should approximate in focus and structure an article (or series of articles) in one of the major journals in the field, (e.g., *Child Development*, *Developmental Psychology*, *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, *Journals of Gerontology*). In the case of experimental research, it would probably include the results of a series of related experiments. In most cases, dissertations have a more extended literature review and discussion section than the typical journal article and the data analyses are typically more thoroughly documented. With the committee's approval, a dissertation can also be comprised of two related manuscripts in preparation for submission (or two related previously submitted or published articles that had been approved by the committee prior to submission) authored by the student (as first author; coauthors also acceptable), bookended by chapters that provide a general introduction and general conclusion.

**D. Supervisory Committee for Dissertation.** When starting dissertation work, the student assembles his/her dissertation committee. This committee guides students through the dissertation process, reviews their progress and eventually accepts the completed dissertation after the final examination (the defense). The committee is comprised of at least four faculty members. Two members must be core Developmental Science faculty. The third can be core or affiliated faculty. The fourth member must serve as the Graduate School representative and cannot be HDFS faculty. If this member is a faculty in the College of Human Sciences and Education, they must be tenured. Typically, students work closely with their major advisor as the dissertation research is being conducted. The student may also request advice regarding data, analyses, interpretations, etc. from other committee members as needed.

**E. Comprehensive/Preliminary Exam (Dissertation Proposal).** The written component of the comprehensive/preliminary examination is the dissertation proposal describing the student's intended dissertation research. The proposal document should be comprised of the literature review, method, and proposed analysis strategy. The proposal ensures acceptance of the study design by the committee before beginning the dissertation research.

Only students who have passed the qualifying examination can proceed to the oral component of the comprehensive/preliminary examination. This meeting is scheduled with the student's supervisory committee members only after the major advisor approves the proposal as ready. At least two weeks before the oral exam, the student submits the

Notification of Scheduled Examination form to the Graduate school and provides each committee member with the proposal. At the oral exam, the candidate must present their project orally and via a 15-20 minute PowerPoint presentation. The proposal is then discussed by the committee and modifications are suggested or required. The proposal process ends when the candidate and his/her supervisory committee agree upon a promising and acceptable dissertation project. At that point the committee votes on whether the student has passed the comprehensive/preliminary oral exam, and the advisor submits the record of that vote to the Graduate School. In the event the student fails the oral exam, the student will be allowed one more chance to take the exam in a subsequent semester. The student cannot proceed with steps outlined in the proposal until the student passes the oral exam. After passing the comprehensive exam, the student will be formally admitted to candidacy for the Doctor of Philosophy degree.

#### **F. Dissertation and Final Oral Examination (the "Dissertation Defense")**

*Scheduling the Defense.* The final examination cannot take place in the same semester as the comprehensive/preliminary exam. It must be scheduled in advance with the Graduate School and must take place, at minimum, a specified number of days before the anticipated graduation date (typically a month or more; see the Graduate School website for details). When the major advisor has approved the dissertation document, it must be given to the supervisory committee members at least two weeks in advance of the final examination. At least two weeks before the oral exam, the student submits the Notification of Scheduled Examination form to the Graduate school. The oral exam is advertised in advance to departmental faculty, graduate students, and affiliated faculty, who are invited to come for the public portion. The student must provide details of the meeting to the DS coordinator at least one week in advance so that the oral exam can be advertised to DS faculty and students.

*Oral Examination (the defense meeting).* The candidate begins with a 15-20 minute PowerPoint presentation of the research questions and results of the dissertation. During this public presentation, the committee members and audience members may ask questions and discuss points of interest. The candidate must also present a 2-3 minute video at this time, in which the candidate summarizes their dissertation research for a general audience. After the public audience leaves the room, the committee will question the candidate further. The candidate is expected to "defend" their scientific work academically, i.e., weighing arguments carefully and reacting to criticism appropriately. Final acceptance of the dissertation is often made contingent on revisions before the final copy of the dissertation is submitted to the graduate school. The committee needs to approve both the dissertation text and video. In the event the student fails the final oral exam, the student will be allowed one more chance to take the exam in a subsequent semester. Students should not bring food to the defense meeting.

## **Working With Your Major Professor And Your Committee**

Major professors serve a number of important functions. Each serves as an advisor, mentor, guide, and instructor. Your major professor will help you to choose your committee members, making sure they are appropriate for the topic of study. Your committee and your major professor will approve your plan of study. Your major professor will work with you as you develop and revise your thesis proposal, thesis, dissertation proposal, and dissertation. This person must approve your final draft of each of these documents before you can set up your proposal or defense meetings. In addition to these clearly defined functions, though, major professors may serve in other capacities. They may nominate their students for awards, scholarships, and/or fellowships if applicable. They may invite students to work on other projects of mutual interest. Major professors may serve as role models for professional behavior, and encourage you to engage in activities that will enhance your professional development (e.g. attend and/or present at professional conferences). While not therapists or counselors, major professors can serve as an important source of encouragement and emotional support. They can serve as a sounding board for ideas about your career path. Finding a major professor who will also serve as a mentor might be particularly helpful to students who are traditionally underrepresented in graduate school. These are just a few of the ways a major professor may nurture your development as a professional.

There are individual differences among different professors' styles with regard to advising graduate students. There are also differences in what type of advising an individual student may want. For this reason, it is important that students carefully consider whether there is a good match with a potential major professor in two different areas: 1) area of research interest and 2) advising style and student needs. It is recommended that you read two to three recent publications of potential major professors, and then meet with them to discuss the possibility of working together. Professors understand the need to find the best fit, and so will not object to this style of information gathering. This process might also help you identify potential committee members.

### **Major Professor Responsibilities**

Choosing a major advisor is one of the most important decisions you will make during your graduate studies. You will work closely with your advisor to develop your proposal and master's thesis and to prepare for your oral defense. It is important that your advisor has some knowledge in your specific topic area. It is also important that you can work well with your advisor over the period of your program.

When you first begin your program, you may be assigned a temporary advisor. You may decide to continue with that person or switch to someone else. Feel free to talk with several professors about the possibility of working together, to ensure that you make "the best match." Some questions that you may want to ask potential major advisors include:

1. Are you willing to work on a project not directly linked to your line of research?
2. What is your basic philosophy or strategy when working with graduate students?
3. Have you planned any sabbaticals or leave of absences during the next two years?
4. Are you willing to allow students to work off of your own data sets? Under what



conditions?

5. How involved do you like for the committee members to be?
6. Are you available to work with students in the summer?

Once you select a major professor, you will work together on developing a time line for completing your Plans of Study, your thesis, and your dissertation.

It is possible to change your major professor; in fact, it is very common to change if you had an advisor who was temporarily assigned to you. Other reasons for switching might include a professor going on developmental leave or leaving NDSU. Changing your major professor is strongly discouraged after your thesis work has begun, and would have to be approved by your current and proposed major professor. In order to change, it is necessary to make arrangements with your new major professor and complete the Request for Change form. If you are admitted to work with a particular faculty member as your advisor, it is not guaranteed that a different advisor will agree to work with you should you decide to switch.

### **Department Head Responsibilities**

The Department Head will give final approval for several decisions that are made during your graduate career. The Head must approve the Plan of Study Committee and changes to the Plan of Study. He or she is also responsible for approving your scheduled oral examination dates (thesis and dissertation defenses), as well as signing the final copy of your thesis and dissertation. If your thesis involves the collection of data with human participants, the Head must also approve the request to the Institutional Review Board.

### **Plan of Study Committee**

During the second semester, you, in consultation with your major professor and with the approval of the Department Head, should select your Plan of Study Committee. Requirements for the membership of this committee are the same as for the doctoral supervisory committee. It is advantageous to select committee members that have expertise in a specific component of your disquisition. For example, if you selected as your thesis topic “Parent-adolescent conflict during puberty for Native Americans,” it is possible that your major advisor will have expertise in parenting. In this case, it would be a good idea to select committee members that have a strong knowledge of adolescence or Native Americans. Sometimes it may be important to choose a committee member with an expertise in methodology, particularly if you foresee complicated analyses.

Revisions of the Plan of Study require the completion of a Request for Change form and approval by the major professor, the Plan of Study Committee, HDFS Department Head, and the Graduate Dean. The major professor and committee may be different on the doctoral Plan of Study from the master’s Plan of Study without completing a Request for Change form.

## **Opportunities to Enhance Your Educational Experience**

### **Endorsement in Quantitative Methodology**

We offer doctoral students the opportunity to enhance their statistical knowledge by obtaining an endorsement in quantitative methodology. This endorsement can be listed on the student's vita alongside his/her degree. In order to obtain this endorsement, students must complete the following courses:

- HDFS 705: Quantitative Methods in Developmental Science (if entering with a Bachelor's degree)
- An advanced quantitative methods course (HDFS 854 Advanced Quantitative Methods in Developmental Science or other course approved by advisor and committee or program coordinator)
- Longitudinal quantitative methods course (either HDFS 856 Longitudinal Research Methods and Analysis or PSYC 762 Advanced Research Methods and Analysis)

Additionally, students must choose two of the following listed courses, or other courses as approved by the DS committee:

EDUC 881: Data Management and Decision Making

EDUC 882: Institutional Analysis Techniques

EDUC 883: Survey Research

EDUC 885: Structural Equation Modeling

STAT 764: Multivariate Methods

STAT 767: Probability and Mathematical Statistics

### **Internship Experience**

For students who plan careers as college professors, multiple teaching experiences are recommended. For those who have specific research, service, or consulting careers in mind, teaching experience is helpful but other internship experiences are important as well. Internships can significantly advance the understanding of developmental science when the students work and train in a setting related to their interests (e.g., school setting, hospital or state institution, a congressional office, an agency or a center associated with child or adult development). Internships may be taken for course credit. For both teaching and internships, it is advantageous for students to document their experiences (e.g., teaching or internship evaluations) for use when applying for positions.

### **Graduate Certificate Program in College Teaching**

Students in Developmental Science are eligible to earn a graduate certificate in college teaching. There are 9 credits required, including HDFS 802/COMM 702/STEM 810, which is already required in the DS program. A practicum/field experience (HDFS

892/EDUC 795) is also required during the semester the student is teaching. See [https://www.ndsu.edu/otl/programs/college\\_teaching\\_certificate/](https://www.ndsu.edu/otl/programs/college_teaching_certificate/) for more information.

## **Core Faculty and Affiliated Faculty**

Students will choose a major advisor from among the core Developmental Science Faculty. In addition to the core, several NDSU faculty members both inside and outside of HDFS have indicated a willingness to be affiliated with the Developmental Science Ph.D. program. This means that they are a good pool to draw from when composing supervisory committees, they might offer classes that would be of interest as electives, and they might be good resources to consult at any stage of the research process.

### Core Developmental Science Faculty:

Sean Brotherson, Ph.D., Professor  
Jim Deal, Ph.D., Professor  
Heather Fuller, Ph.D., Professor  
Joel Hektner, Ph.D., Professor  
Carmen Kho, Ph.D., Assistant Professor  
Leanna McWood, Ph.D., Assistant Professor  
Natira Mullet, PhD, Assistant Professor  
Melissa O'Connor, Ph.D., Associate Professor  
Wen Wang, Ph.D., Assistant Professor

### Affiliated Faculty within HDFS:

Meagan Hoffman, Ph.D., Associate Professor  
Carrie Johnson, Ph.D., Associate Professor  
Christine McGeorge, Ph.D., Professor

### Affiliated Faculty outside HDFS:

Ben Balas, Ph.D., Professor (Psychology)  
Sarah Boonstoppel, Ph.D., Assistant Professor (Political Science and Public Policy)  
Erin Conwell, Ph.D., Associate Professor (Psychology)  
Britt Heidinger, Ph.D., Associate Professor (Biological Sciences)  
Brent Hill, Ph.D., Associate Professor (Education)  
Andrea Huseth-Zosel, Ph.D., Associate Professor (Public Health)  
Linda Langlely, Ph.D., Associate Professor (Psychology)  
Carrie Anne Platt, Professor (Communication)  
Susan Ray-Degges, Ph.D., Professor (Apparel, Merchandising, Interior Design and Hospitality Management)  
Kevin Thompson, Ph.D., Professor (Criminal Justice)  
Rachelle Vetter, Ph.D., Professor (Center for 4-H Youth Development)

## Funding Opportunities

*Graduate Assistantships.* Graduate assistantships may be awarded to students to support the teaching and research missions of the department. Most graduate assistants receive a stipend and full tuition waiver. In order to hold an assistantship, students with course work other than disquisition or practicum credits remaining need to be enrolled a minimum of half time (5 credits per semester) and be making adequate progress to degree. Students with only disquisition or practicum credits remaining must enroll in at least 1 credit and must be making adequate progress to degree. Requests for a waiver of this policy may be made in writing to the graduate coordinator. Graduate assistants are evaluated at the end of each semester; continuation of appointment is contingent on satisfactory evaluations.

### *Grants, Scholarships and Fellowships.*

- NDSU Graduate School

Funding opportunities are available to graduate students in the form of grants, scholarships and fellowships. Opportunities through the Graduate School include NDSU Graduate School Dissertation Fellowships, Graduate School Teaching and Research Awards, the Doctoral Dissertation Assistantship program and non-faculty travel awards.

For information on these and several other funding possibilities visit:

[http://www.ndsu.edu/gradschool/current\\_students/fellowships\\_and\\_awards/](http://www.ndsu.edu/gradschool/current_students/fellowships_and_awards/)

- Scholarships in the College of Human Sciences and Education

Students may also apply for scholarships through the NDSU College of Human Sciences and Education

[https://www.ndsu.edu/hse/student\\_resources/hde\\_scholarships/](https://www.ndsu.edu/hse/student_resources/hde_scholarships/)

- Fellowships

There are a number of agencies and organizations that provide funding to doctoral students. Simply conducting a Google search of “doctoral fellowships in the social sciences” will provide several opportunities to sort through to see if you qualify! Following are some examples of where you can find information on funding opportunities that might apply— but this is *just a sample* of what is available:

- Members of Phi Upsilon Omicron Honor Society may apply for fellowships. For information visit: <https://phiu.org/scholarship-fellowships/>

- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF GRFP) <http://www.nsfgrfp.org/>

- Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) <http://grants.nih.gov/training/nrsa.htm>

- Guide to U.S. Department of Education Programs  
<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/gtep/index.html>
- National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowship Program (cognitive, neural, & behavioral sciences)  
<https://www.onr.navy.mil/en/Education-Outreach/undergraduate-graduate/NDSEG-graduate-fellowship>
- International Dissertation Research Fellowships (IDRF)  
<http://www.ssrc.org/fellowships/idrf-fellowship/>
- Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowships (ACLS American Council of Learned Societies) <http://www.acls.org/programs/dcf/>
- Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation: Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships  
<https://newcombefoundation.org/programs/fellowships/>

### **Postdoctoral Opportunities**

The APS Postdoc Exchange (Association for Psychological Science)

<https://jobs.psychologicalscience.org/categories/763/postdoctoral-jobs/>

## **Program Policies**

### **Graduate Assistantships**

Graduate assistants in Developmental Science work for a faculty member usually for 15-20 hours per week. The student receives a full waiver of all tuition as well as a stipend. International students are responsible for furnishing appropriate documents required for their employment on campus. In order to hold an assistantship, students with course work other than disquisition or practicum credits remaining need to be enrolled a minimum of half time (5 credits per semester) and be making adequate progress to degree. Students with only disquisition or practicum credits remaining must enroll in at least 1 credit and must be making adequate progress to degree. Requests for a waiver of this policy may be made in writing to the graduate coordinator.

### **Other Financial Aid**

The North Dakota Board of Higher Education also offers scholarships for returning graduate students. Application forms are on the Graduate School website. If finances are an issue for you, keep in mind that proper planning can help you minimize the length of time required to complete your program and thus minimize expenses. Keep your financial status in mind as you follow through on your program of study.

### **Maintaining Continuous Enrollment**

Students must maintain continuous enrollment for fall and spring semesters each year until all degree requirements are completed. Students who need to interrupt their studies may obtain a leave of absence by applying in writing to the Graduate Dean. The penalty for not maintaining continuous enrollment until submitting final thesis or paper copies can become steep. The Graduate Dean will not approve the degree until the student has registered for the appropriate number of credits of research for any Fall and/or Spring Semesters not covered by either registration or leave of absence. The number of these credits, determined by the Graduate Dean after consulting with the student and the chair of the student's supervisory committee, will amount to at least one (1) credit per semester not covered by either registration or leave of absence, but not more than four (4) credits total. A student who has not registered and/or is on a leave of absence for longer than a continuous two-year period must also reapply for admission and is subject to the degree requirements at the time of readmission. Students who move out of the state may maintain their North Dakota residence status for up to 12 months, after which it is assumed that out-of-state tuition applies.

### **10-Year Limit**

Graduate credit for any course work that is more than ten (10) calendar years old at the time of the final examination cannot be used to satisfy a Ph.D. degree program. Following the final examination (i.e. oral defense), the candidate has one (1) additional year during which to provide The Graduate School a disquisition for which the Graduate Dean will sign final approval of all requirements for the degree. Should the disquisition not be deposited as specified or any other degree requirements not be completed within this time limit, the student must repeat the final examination. Leaves of absence do not amend in any way the ten year time limit.

### **Checking NDSU Email Address**

Each student is issued an NDSU email address (usually of the form [firstname.lastname@ndsu.edu](mailto:firstname.lastname@ndsu.edu)). Students are required to check this address regularly, as it will be a primary mode of communication from University faculty, staff, and administration. If students do not wish to set up their email program to make their NDSU email account primary, NDSU email can be checked without an email program via the Internet here: <http://www.ndsu.edu/pubweb/itdivision/mailhub/> Alternatively, students can have all of their NDSU email delivered to another account (such as yahoo). If this option is chosen, students must insure that any spam filters they use do not delete mail from NDSU.

### **Courses not eligible for tuition waiver**

All core courses are offered at least once every two years in a form that is eligible for tuition waiver. These courses and some elective courses may also be offered at other times in an online format either through Distance and Continuing Education (DCE) or Great Plains IDEA (GPIDEA). In these cases, these courses would not be eligible for tuition waiver. All courses not eligible for tuition waiver are clearly marked as “DCE” or “GPIDEA” in the Schedule of Courses published online each semester by the Registrar. Public Health courses are eligible for a waiver of base tuition, but students need to pay the tuition differential.

### **Participating in Commencement**

Students are eligible to participate in commencement at the end of the semester in which they complete their final examination (thesis or dissertation defense). A Commencement Application form must be completed and submitted to the Graduate School for fall or spring commencement. The final examination must be scheduled at least one week prior to the date of commencement. Participating in commencement is not proof of earning a degree. The degree is earned and graduation is posted on the date that the Graduate School grants final approval to the student’s disquisition.

### **Full-time and half-time status**

Full-time graduate students take 9 or more credits per semester; half-time students take 5 credits. However, taking fewer than 5 credits, if those credits are for thesis or practicum, will count for half-time status for financial aid purposes.

### **Awards for Graduate Students**

Awards are given annually to students for “Outstanding Assistance to faculty in HDFS” and for the “Mark T. Suffolk Award for Outstanding Contributions to Developmental Science”. The awards come with a certificate and a monetary prize. Awardees’ names are inscribed on a plaque in the HDFS office.

### **Authorship Guidelines**

The College of Human Sciences and Education has an “Authorship Guide” that provides general principles for deciding issues of authorship and recommends procedures for making and documenting these decisions. Among the principles are that authorship should be discussed at the initiation of a project, but ultimately be determined by the relative contribution of participants. Publishing and authorship expectations should be

discussed between students and potential advisors prior to the final selection of an advisor. Publications resulting from a student's disquisition should, under most circumstances, list that student as the lead author. Exceptions might be considered in the case where the student is using a faculty member's data. Authorship on additional articles from the data based on new research questions and analysis should be determined based on relative contributions. More details on these guidelines and a template to use to document authorship decisions are available from the Graduate Coordinator.

### **Approval Required on Publication and Grant Submissions**

Any student who submits a manuscript for publication in a journal or book must first have the approval of a DS faculty member who is a coauthor or the approval of their advisor, if there is no coauthor who is a DS faculty member. Students who intend to submit a proposal for external research funding must also have the approval of a DS faculty member and must route the proposal through NDSU Sponsored Programs Administration.

### **Protection of Human Subjects**

All research using human participants, including the use of secondary data sources, requires approval by the University's Institutional Review Board (IRB). Information and forms for filing a project with the IRB can be found on the NDSU IRB website. NDSU requires that the faculty advisor serve as PI on all research, including thesis and dissertation projects.

### **Unethical or Unprofessional Conduct**

Students who violate policy or otherwise display unethical or unprofessional conduct may face disciplinary action ranging from a letter placed in the student's file documenting such conduct to expulsion from the program. The student has a right to an appeals process, following the "Grievances" process outlined on the next page.



## **Academic Standards**

Only grades of A, B, C, or S are acceptable for graduate credit. All courses taken by a graduate student for which grades are given will be used in calculating the grade point average, except where a course has been repeated. Both grades will appear on the transcript, but only the second grade will be used in calculating the grade point average. (A specific course can be retaken only once, and only three total courses can be retaken). Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory is assigned for research credits, and they are not used in calculating the GPA. Acquisition of more than two grades of C, D, F or U may be grounds for dismissal upon recommendation by the program administrator.

To be in a scholastic status of GOOD STANDING and to receive a graduate degree, a student must maintain a cumulative grade average of at least 3.0.

Any student in GOOD STANDING whose cumulative grade average drops to less than 3.0 at any time of attendance is automatically placed on academic WARNING. Any student admitted in CONDITIONAL status because of grade deficiency is automatically placed on academic WARNING. A student on academic WARNING cannot register for the following semester until the grades for the current semester post. If a student on academic WARNING fails to achieve a cumulative grade average of at least 3.0 in the subsequent semester of attendance then the student will be placed on academic PROBATION.

A student on academic PROBATION may not continue the pursuit of a graduate degree program without a recommendation from the appropriate program administrator and a waiver from the Dean of the Graduate School. This recommendation must include a review of the student's current status and a proposed plan of remediation which provides the student an opportunity to return to a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 within one additional semester (fall or spring). The remediation plan must be submitted and approved in time for the student to register for the academic term (fall or spring) that immediately follows the term in which the student was placed on probation. If the student does not submit an acceptable plan in time to enroll for the next academic term (fall or spring), or if the cumulative GPA is not at least 3.0 after this one additional semester, the student will be dismissed from their graduate program.

A student on academic PROBATION is not eligible for a graduate assistantship or tuition waiver. These minimal scholastic requirements apply to all students enrolled in the Graduate School. Additional requirements may exist for certain graduate departments and programs.

## **Grievances**

- Step 1. The first step in grievance resolution is to discuss the problem with the faculty person it concerns. If resolution cannot be obtained between concerned parties, the student should move to Step 2. Do not proceed to Step 2 until Step 1 has been completed.
- Step 2. It is the right and responsibility of the Department Chair to work toward conflict resolution within the Department. The student may request a meeting with the individual faculty person and the Department Chair.
- Step 3. Only if satisfactory resolution is not forthcoming in Step 2, the concerned

parties move to Step 3, contacting the Dean of the college and or the Dean of the NDSU Graduate School.

Resolution of grievances beyond this stage should follow grievance policies of the university.

## **Recommended Electives**

### **HDFS**

HDFS 711 Youth Development  
HDFS 714 Contemporary Youth Issues: Promoting Optimal Mental Health in Youth  
HDFS 723 Perspectives on Gerontology  
HDFS 760 Aging Policy  
HDFS 824 Special Topics Socioemotional

### **Apparel, Merchandising, Interior Design and Hospitality Management (ADHM)**

ADHM 705 Environments and Aging

### **Biological Sciences**

BIOL 825 Biology of Aging  
BIOL 859 Evolution

### **Communication**

COMM 702 Introduction to College Teaching in the Humanities and Social Sciences  
COMM 704 Qualitative Research Methods in Communication  
COMM 712 Emerging Trends in Teaching and Learning Online

### **Criminal Justice**

CJ 702 Program Evaluation  
CJ 707 Juvenile Corrections  
CJ 709 Criminal Justice Policy  
CJ 722 Crime and the Life Course  
CJ 760 Police and Race Issues  
CJ 768 Gender and Justice

### **Education**

EDUC 753 Managing/Monitoring Learning  
EDUC 851 Adult Learning  
EDUC 853 Instructional Methods for Adult Learners  
EDUC 871 Planning and Conducting Needs Assessment  
EDUC 872 Qualitative Research Methods  
EDUC 881 Computer Data Management and Decision Making  
EDUC 882 Institutional Analysis Techniques  
EDUC 883 Survey Research  
EDUC 884 Program Evaluation Research  
EDUC 885 Structural Equation Modeling Fundamentals

### **Health, Nutrition, and Exercise Science (HNES)**

HNES 703 Graduate Biomechanics of Sport and Exercise  
HNES 713 Graduate Exercise Physiology  
HNES 726 Nutrition in Wellness  
HNES 727 Physical Activity Epidemiology

HNES 729 Grant Writing for the Health Professional  
HNES 760 Skeletal Muscle Physiology  
HNES 777 Scholarly Writing and Presenting in Health, Nutrition, and Exercise Science

**Nursing**

NURS 715 Population Health / Epidemiology for Advanced Practice Nursing  
NURS 810 Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (2 credits)

**Psychology**

PSYC 731 Fundamental Processes/Cognition  
PSYC 733 Social Judgment  
PSYC 756 Empir. Supp. Interventions II  
PSYC 760 Res. Meth/Visual/Cogn/Neurosci  
PSYC 761 Applied Research Methods  
PSYC 762 Advanced Research Methods / Analysis  
PSYCH 763 Grant Writing for Psychological Scientists  
PSYC 770. Testing and Assessment  
PSYC 771 Social/Health Psych Research  
PSYC 782 Emotions  
PSYC 787 Adv. Social Psych/Health

**Public Health**

(most PH courses are not open to students outside of that program and tuition may not be covered by a tuition waiver, but students can ask permission)

PH 704 Public Health Management and Policy  
PH 705 Global Health  
PH 706 Essentials of Epidemiology  
PH 712 Public Health research methods  
PH 720 Environmental Health  
PH 722 Applied Community Health  
PH 725 Promoting Health through Policy, System, and Environment  
PH 741 Social and Behavioral Sciences in Public Health  
PH 765 Cultural Competence in Health Professions

**Sociology**

SOC 700 Qualitative Methods  
SOC 701 Quantitative Methods  
SOC 723 Social Theory

**Statistics**

STAT 725 Applied Statistics  
STAT 726 Applied Regression and Analysis of Variance  
STAT 730 Biostatistics  
STAT 732 Introduction to Bioinformatics  
STAT 761 Advanced Regression  
STAT 764 Multivariate Methods

STAT 767 Probability and Mathematical Statistics I  
 STAT 768 Probability and Mathematical Statistics II  
 STAT 774 Generalized Linear Models  
 STAT 786 Advanced Inference  
 STAT 851 Bayesian Statistical Inference  
 STAT 852 Longitudinal Data Analysis

### Women and Gender Studies

WGS 790 Graduate Seminar

### List Of Forms

<b>Name of Form</b>	<b>When Needed</b>
Master's Degree Plan of Study and Supervisory Committee	By end of 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester
Request for Change: Plan of Study, Advisory/Supervisory Committee	Any time a change is made in courses taken or committee members
HDFS Thesis Contract HDFS Individual Study Contract HDFS Dissertation Contract	When registering for any semester in which you plan to take thesis, individual study, or dissertation credits
HDFS Cumulative Graduate Student Activity Report for Evaluation of Progress	Due by April 15 every year to the DS Coordinator
Financial Aid form to verify research credits equivalent to half-time	Available only from financial aid office (not online). Used to obtain half-time student status even when taking fewer than 5 credits, if those credits are thesis, research, or practicum.
Notification of Scheduled Examination	Due at least 2 weeks before the date of the defense to the Graduate School
Graduate School Commencement Application	If participating in commencement, due October 31 or March 15 to the Graduate School, as long as defense will be completed by one week before commencement
Doctoral Degree Plan of Study and Supervisory Committee	By end of 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester if already have MS degree; by end of 4 <sup>th</sup> semester if not.

These forms are available either on the Graduate School website ([http://www.ndsu.edu/gradschool/current\\_students/forms/](http://www.ndsu.edu/gradschool/current_students/forms/)) or from the HDFS department office manager.

## **Core Developmental Science Faculty**

*Sean Brotherson (Ph.D., Oregon State University)*

My doctoral degree is in Human Development and Family Studies from Oregon State University, with added emphases in gerontology and family policy. My master's degree is in Family Science from Brigham Young University, with an emphasis in family life education. My areas of interest include research, teaching and program and resource development in fathering, parent-child relationships, couple and marriage relationship quality, family well-being, grief and bereavement, individual and family transitions, and family life education. I am a member of the National Council on Family Relations and work with various organizations in family life education and family policy, primarily through the Cooperative Extension Service.

*James Deal (Ph.D., University of Georgia)*

I received my bachelors degree from Georgia Southern University in Sociology, and both my masters and doctoral degrees at the University of Georgia in the department of Child and Family Development. Following that, I completed a three year post doc at the University of Virginia (Psychology Department), and George Washington University (Center for Family Research, Division of Psychiatry). My teaching focuses on children and families across cultures and on issues/theories in family science. My research focuses on temperament and personality development in young children, and on whole family functioning. I am a member of the Society for Research in Child Development and the National Council on Family Relations.

*Heather Fuller (Ph.D., University of Michigan)*

My research focuses on social relationships and their effect on well-being across the lifespan. Specifically, my interests include family dynamics and aging, intergenerational relationships, and sociodemographic and cross-cultural variation in lifespan development. My teaching focuses on aging, lifespan development, family dynamics, and aging-related resources, policies and advocacy. I received my bachelor's degree in Psychology and Spanish Studies from the University of Minnesota, and both my master's and doctoral degrees in Developmental Psychology from the University of Michigan. I am a member of the Gerontological Society of America and the Society for the Study of Human Development.

*Joel Hektner (Ph.D., University of Chicago)*

My interests and research are in social emotional learning (SEL) as a means of well-being promotion and problem prevention in school-age children; peer affiliation patterns and peer influences on behavior; parent training programs; and family and school conditions that facilitate optimal experiences (flow) and optimal development. I enjoy teaching courses in socioemotional development, statistics, and research methods. My doctoral field of study was in Human Development at University of Chicago. I earned my B.A. in Psychology from Princeton University. I am a member of the Society for Prevention Research, the Society for Research in Child Development, the American Educational Research Association, and the National Council on Family Relations.

*Carmen Kho (Ph.D., University of California Merced)*

As an international scholar and immigrant, I am interested in how different contexts (i.e., cultural background, family dynamics and parenting dimensions, and neighborhood characteristics) shape our development and wellbeing. My research also focuses on the timescale in which these developmental processes occur (i.e., moment-to-moment, day-to-day, across years). I received my doctoral degree in Psychological Sciences from the University of California Merced, with an emphasis in both Developmental and Health Psychology. My master's degree is in Clinical Psychology from the California State University Dominguez Hills. I am a member of the Society for Research in Child Development and the Society for Research on Adolescence.

*Leanna McWood (Ph.D., Auburn University)*

My research focuses on how social contexts relate to adolescent development. I am particularly interested in how organized activity involvement and peer relationships contribute to sleep and adolescent functioning. My teaching interests are in child and adolescent development including peer and family relationships/processes. I received my bachelor's degree from Miami University in psychology (with a minor in criminology) and my Master's and Doctoral degrees from Auburn University in Human Development and Family Science. I also completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Auburn University for two years. I am a member of the Society for Research in Child Development and the Society for Research on Adolescence.

*Natira Mullet (PhD, Texas Tech University)*

My research focuses on minority populations in family science. This includes examining community-based programming which promotes cultural and familial protective factors to reduce interpersonal trauma and resulting substance use and mental health outcomes in racial/ethnic and gender/sexual minority populations. My dissertation was on relationships between sexual assault and various internalizing and externalizing behaviors, using samples of White and Native American adolescent females. I received a PhD in Couple, Marriage, and Family Therapy from Texas Tech University. I also have a BS in Mathematics, BS in Psychology, MS in Human Development and Family Studies (with emphasis in Couple and Family Therapy), as well as graduate certificates in Financial Therapy and Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies. In addition, I completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I am a member of the National Council for Family Relations and the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

*Melissa O'Connor (Ph.D., University of South Florida)*

I received a bachelor's degree in Psychology (with a minor in Creative Writing) from St. Cloud State University, a master's degree in Experimental Psychology from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, and a Ph.D. in Aging Studies from the University of South Florida. My research focuses on characterizing changes in cognitive and functional abilities across the adult lifespan, and my ultimate goal is to promote healthy aging. Specifically, my research interests include: examining age-related differences and changes in cognitive and functional abilities, such as driving, among healthy adults and clinical populations; quantitative methods and psychometrics; interventions for improving cognition, health,

and everyday functioning; and attitudes toward dementia. My teaching interests include adult development and aging, lifespan development, cognitive psychology, and research methods. I am a member of the American Psychological Association (Division 20, Adult Development and Aging) and the Gerontological Society of America.

*Wen Wang (Ph.D., Michigan State University)*

I am interested in using quantitative methods to understand the diversity of socialization processes in families and the inequality among children. In particular, my research aims to understand how the development of child mastery motivation, communication, and prosocial behaviors is shaped by parenting since infancy and whether the socialization varies across cultural and ethnic context. I received my bachelor's degree in Applied Psychology from Tianjin Normal University, China, a master's degree in Educational and Developmental Psychology in the Institution of Psychology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and a doctoral degree in Human Development and Family Studies at Michigan State University. I am a member of the Society for Research in Child Development.



## Helpful Resources About Graduate School

Following is a list of resources that contain information and insights that will help you negotiate different phases of the graduate school process, from the first year to finishing a dissertation. There is also information about funding for graduate education. The resources have been grouped according to topics. However, some sources cover multiple topics. These resources may be available through the library (either directly at the library or via Interlibrary Loan). The following website may also be a good resource: <http://www.apa.org/apags/resources/index.aspx>. If these sources raise additional questions for you, it is recommended that you consult with an academic advisor.

### Beginning Graduate School

1. Rossman, M. H. (2002). *Negotiating graduate school: A guide for graduate students*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Great information on practical, social, and emotional aspects of graduate school.

### Funding

1. Hamel, A. P., & Furlong, J. S. (2011). *The graduate school funding handbook*. 3rd ed. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Pre-application and in-grad school funding.

2. Diffley, P. (2003). *Paying for graduate school without going broke*. New York: Princeton Review.

Good financial advice, money management, funding sources.

### In Graduate School

1. Johnson, B. W. & Huwe, J. W. (2003). *Getting mentored in graduate school*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

2. Mauch, J. E., & Park, N. (2003). *Guide to the successful thesis and dissertation: A handbook for students and faculty*. 5th ed. New York: Marcel Dekker.

3. Cone, J. & Foster, S. L. (2006). *Dissertations and thesis from start to finish: Psychology and related fields*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

4. Walfish, S. & Hess, A. K. (2001). *Succeeding in graduate school: The career guide for psychology students*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

5. Peters, R. L. (1997). *Getting what you came for: The smart student's guide to earning a master's or Ph.D.* Rev. ed. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux.

6. Kline, R. B. (2009). *Becoming a behavioral science researcher: A guide to producing research that matters*. New York: Guilford.

7. Roberts, C. M. (2010). *The dissertation journey: A practical and comprehensive guide to planning, writing, and defending your dissertation*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin.

8. <http://teachpsych.org/gsta/index.php>

Great for teaching resources

### **In Graduate School: Minority Groups and Women**

1. Farmer, V. L. (2006). *The Black student's guide to graduate and professional school success*. Charlotte, NC: IAP LCC.

2. Toth, E. (2008). *Ms. Mentor's new and ever more impeccable advice for women and men in academia*. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press.

3. Leonard, D. (2001). *A woman's guide to doctoral studies*. Buckingham, PA: Open University Press.

**Developmental Science Ph.D. Student Manual**

*Developmental Science Ph.D. program, Department of Human Development and Family Science  
College of Human Sciences and Education*

This form acknowledges your receipt of the Developmental Science Ph.D. Student Manual. Please review the document closely and ask the Developmental Science Coordinator or your advisor if you have any questions before signing this form.

By September 6th, you must complete this form and submit it to the Developmental Science Coordinator.

- I have read and understood the policies and procedures outlined in the Developmental Science Ph.D. Student Manual.
- I agree to abide by the professional standards and requirements for graduate students as described in the manual.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name \_\_\_\_\_

**Agreement to abide by Professional and Academic Standards**

*Developmental Science Ph.D. program, Department of Human Development and Family Science  
College of Human Sciences and Education*

Graduate students are professionals in training, and being an effective professional requires more than what can be learned in a classroom setting. In addition to meeting academic standards, graduate students are expected to conduct themselves in an ethical, responsible, and professional manner. The purpose of this document is to connect you to student and professional standards of conduct and create a record of your agreement to abide by these standards during your graduate program. When you complete and sign this document, you agree to:

- Abide by the NDSU Student Code of Conduct.  
[https://www.ndsu.edu/deanofstudents/student\\_accountability/code\\_of\\_student\\_conduct/](https://www.ndsu.edu/deanofstudents/student_accountability/code_of_student_conduct/)
- Abide by the NDSU University research conduct standards.
- [https://www.ndsu.edu/research/for\\_researchers/research\\_integrity\\_and\\_compliance/](https://www.ndsu.edu/research/for_researchers/research_integrity_and_compliance/)
- Abide by the NDSU Graduate School policies and scholastic standards.
- <https://catalog.ndsu.edu/graduate/policies/>
- Abide by the Developmental Science Doctoral Program standards of professional conduct. (See this manual).

Upon officially entering the program (by September 6th), please complete this form and submit it to the Developmental Science Coordinator.

- I have reviewed the standards identified above and/or have taken relevant training and agree to fully abide by them.
- I understand the process for establishing consequences for violations of professional and academic standards and my rights of review and appeal.
- I understand that if I violate the professional standards indicated above, consequences could include action up to dismissal from the program.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name \_\_\_\_\_

Developmental Science Qualifying Exam Contract  
*Developmental Science Ph.D. program, Department of Human Development and Family Science*  
College of Human Sciences and Education

This form states the guidelines for the completion of the qualifying exam. If you have any questions, please ask the Developmental Science Coordinator or your advisor before signing this form. By signing below, you are agreeing to the following statements.

- I have read the Developmental Science manual and am familiar with the process for completing the exam.
  
- I will not discuss the exam questions or answers with any other students, whether past, present, or future.
  
- I am aware that grades will be provided for all students after ALL exams are completed.

Please make a copy of this form for your records.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name \_\_\_\_\_