



NDSU NORTH DAKOTA
STATE UNIVERSITY

Developmental Science Doctoral Program

Department of Human Development
and Family Science

COLLEGE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

DEVELOPMENTAL SCIENCE IS AN EMERGING INTERDISCIPLINARY FIELD THAT STUDIES HUMAN DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE LIFESPAN IN VARIOUS FAMILY, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL CONTEXTS. NDSU'S PROGRAM HAS EXCITING, RELEVANT, AND FLEXIBLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDY AND RESEARCH TO HELP YOU **REACH YOUR GOALS.**



At NDSU, you'll be surrounded by active scholars with cutting-edge research programs and state-of-the-art equipment and labs. A highly supportive environment is designed to help develop your interests and skills in research and teaching. Faculty genuinely care about your welfare and are dedicated to helping you become the best professional you can be.

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Originally from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Christensen entered the program after earning a bachelor's degree in Spanish education from the University of Central Missouri.

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"I pursued this program because it was designed in a manner that sets up the student for success. The department has made it a priority to get us the experience we need to receive a quality education and compete for jobs in the future. From day one, we have opportunities to work closely with the faculty in conducting research, grant writing, publishing and teaching."

KATIE CHRISTENSEN




Follow your passion

NDSU's doctoral program in developmental science allows you to expand on interests established during your bachelor's or master's program in human development and family science, psychology or a similar degree. Prepare for a range of career opportunities to create positive change in your community and the world. While many students pursue careers in academia, others find their passions are best met in work with non-profit, government, or private organizations.

Academia – Be well prepared for research and teaching faculty positions in human development, psychology and similar departments at major universities; teaching positions at community and liberal arts colleges; or university administration in areas such as student services.

Global public health – Find regional, national and global opportunities with government, private, and non-profit organizations to design interventions and delivery of systems that promote well-being. Global public health organizations include World Health Organization and UNICEF.

Work in Africa – Research and implement culturally appropriate ways to introduce health-promoting interventions such as water treatment, vaccination or sexual education. NDSU doctoral student Courage Mudzongo was honored for his work on “Determinants of Child Labor in Malawi and Tanzania.”



Education systems – Design interventions and promote social emotional learning to address bullying and violence, increase academic achievement, and improve relationships at all levels in the academic community. Learn more about social emotional learning at the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning.

Human services – Work in government, public agencies or global non-governmental organizations to directly address, or develop grants for, issues such as child maltreatment, parent training, poverty, hunger, racial equity, and education. Human service organizations include the Gates Foundation and the Kellogg Foundation.

Health systems – Work in community coalitions on challenges such as drug abuse prevention and aging in place.

Writing and publishing – Careers in writing and publishing allow you to create assessments for mental health, personality, placements or education; write guides to promote positive student development; or work in textbook and academic publishing.

Business and corporate – Local to global business opportunities in statistics, research, insurance, marketing, consulting, or director positions are all a good match for a doctorate in developmental science.



Research at NDSU

Develop your interests in tandem with engaged and passionate faculty and students. Our faculty's research covers the life span and immediately and meaningfully impacts the well-being of individuals and families.

At NDSU, you'll find faculty who study both socioemotional and cognitive development across a variety of ages. Rather than focus on how groups of people at different ages vary from one another, we are concerned with how individuals grow and develop over time. In particular, we focus on how this growth and development relates to family, social, and cultural contexts.

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. Our program will provide you with those skills.

HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT FACULTY INTERESTS AND PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- Factors associated with body image disturbances and disordered eating
- Relational and contextual influences on adolescents' and young adults' positive and problem behaviors
- Parent training to promote parent and child optimal development
- Preventive interventions for disruptive children
- Psychological well-being in old age
- Object individuation in infancy
- Age-related differences and changes in cognitive and functional abilities, such as driving

Program requirements

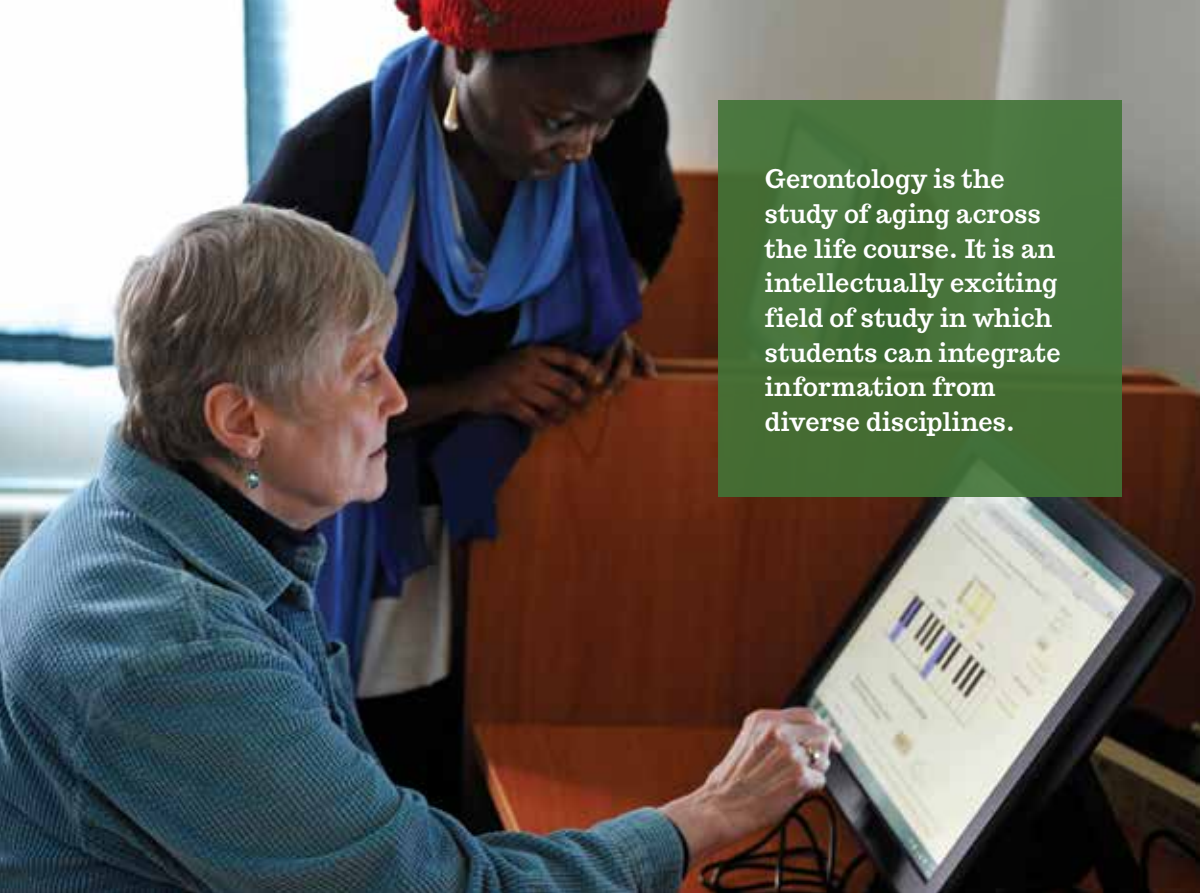
You may enter the program directly after earning a bachelor's degree, in which case you will earn a master's degree along the way to completing your doctoral degree. If you already have a relevant master's degree and have completed a research-based thesis, you also are eligible for the program. In addition to coursework, you will complete these additional requirements, to ensure your readiness for a future career:

- Teach one undergraduate course, with supervision
- Engage in research projects independent of the thesis or dissertation, in collaboration with program faculty. These projects are expected to result in presentations at national conferences and publications in refereed journals.
- Complete a comprehensive/preliminary examination
- Produce and defend a dissertation

For more information, including a detailed curriculum, visit www.ndsu.edu/hdfs.

GERONTOLOGY DOCTORATE DUAL-DEGREE OPTION

At NDSU, you can combine studies in developmental science with a Doctor of Philosophy dual-major option in gerontology. The mission of the option is to promote aging-related research and education that uses a discipline-based perspective that serves to enhance the length and quality of life.



Gerontology is the study of aging across the life course. It is an intellectually exciting field of study in which students can integrate information from diverse disciplines.





Financial assistance

We are committed to offering every student accepted into the program a full tuition waiver plus a stipend for graduate assistantship. Assistantship options are available for both research and teaching.

Application information

The deadline to apply for the Developmental Science Doctoral Program is Feb. 1. For more information on how to apply, visit www.ndsu.edu/hdfs.

NDSU and Fargo

NDSU is recognized as one of the nation's top 108 public and private universities by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education. It is considered a national model of a student-focused, land-grant, research university.

Fargo, N.D., and Moorhead, Minn., are the center of a metropolitan area of about 200,000 people. Located in the prime agricultural land of the Red River Valley of the North, the community is nationally regarded as a vibrant and safe place to live and work.



For more information

Visit us at [www.ndsu.edu/hdfs/
developmental_science_phd](http://www.ndsu.edu/hdfs/developmental_science_phd)
to learn more about our program,
research projects, faculty, the
application process, upcoming
events, and the local community.

"The program does an excellent job of training students in research methods and statistics, and it gives students numerous opportunities to apply their research skills. The faculty members are engaged in a wide range of research projects, so there is something for everyone."

ALISON BRENNAN



Originally from Minot, N.D., Brennan is in her third year of full-time graduate study after earning a bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology from Concordia College, Moorhead.

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Contact information

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