Overview

The Department of Human Development is an interdisciplinary program in the social sciences that links theory and methodology from fields such as anthropology, biology, linguistics, psychology, and sociology. Students majoring in Human Development explore the interrelations of sociocultural, biological, and psychological forces across the lifespan. The primary objectives of the department are to introduce students to the processes and mechanisms underlying developmental change and stability and the contexts in which development takes place. A wide range of issues are included in the study of human development, including the role of the individual, family, community, and state.

The interdisciplinary approach of the Human Development program provides an excellent preparation for students interested in graduate study in several social science disciplines, or in careers and professions that require a broad understanding of human experience and behavior. Many of the department’s alumni have successfully completed graduate degrees in social work, counseling, law, public administration, health sciences, and education. Our recent alumni have careers in human services, counseling, social work, education, administration, law, business, and child and family advocacy.

The department offers one of only three fully on-line degree programs at the university, granting a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Development, with an option in either Adult Development and Gerontology, or in Women’s Development. The curriculum for the online degree examines human development theories and its social, cultural, physical and emotional dimensions. In addition, students will study lifespan concepts and developmental issues concerning children, adolescents, adults, gender and aging populations.

Options

- Early Childhood
- Childhood
- Adolescence
- Adult Development & Gerontology
- Women's Development

Most Popular Concentration

Childhood

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the Department of Human Development work with people of all ages from different ethnic, cultural, and/or socio-economic backgrounds.

They work in a large variety of professions and settings, including: case managers and care coordinators in service programs for children and the aged; Health educators in hospitals and preventive programs; Sales managers in business enterprises; Human resource specialists in private and public corporations; Directors of homeless shelters, women’s shelters, and childcare centers; Counselors in rehabilitation and vocational programs; Administrators of non-profit agencies serving immigrants and the poor.

Scholarships

- Martin Feldman
- Osher Re-Entry Scholarship for PACE
- Contra Costa First 5 Early Childhood Development Scholarship
- Alameda First 5 Early Childhood Development Scholarship
**Women's Studies faculty**

* University Catalogue.

The faculty included are full-time active faculty and does not include emeritus faculty or lecturers. A full listing is in the University Catalogue.

**Associate Professors**

- Rainer Bauer, Ph.D.
  - Stanford University, 1983
  - Cultural and Historical Anthropology, Family, Work, and Community, Rural Identity, Political Economy, Spain, Europe

- Lynn Comerford, Ph.D.
  - State University of New York, Albany, 2001
  - Families, Social Theory, Gender, Stratification

- Jiansheng Guo, Ph.D.
  - University of California, Berkeley 1994
  - Developmental Pragmatics, Cultural and Gender Issues in Child Discourse, Emotional Development, Language and Culture, Narratives and Development, Developmental Psychology

**Assistant Professors**

- Godwin Ashiabi, Ph.D.
  - University of Tennessee, 2002
  - Socioemotional Development, Psychosocial Adjustment, Family Relations/Processes, Poverty and Food Security, Ethnic Minority Children and Families, Schooling Outcomes, Child Development in Ghana

- Steven Borish, Ph.D.
  - Stanford University, 1982
  - Adult Development, Anthropology of Education, Social Movements, Human Communication, Scandinavian Culture and History

- Christina Chin-Newman, Ph.D.
  - University of California, Santa Cruz 2004
  - Psychology of Music and the Arts, Absolute Pitch, Family Relationships, Friendship, Social and Emotional Development

- Keri O’Neal, Ph.D.
  - Texas Tech University, 2001
  - Adolescent Development, Risk-taking Behaviors, Gender, Prevention and Intervention Programming

- D. Xeno Rasmusson, Ph.D.
  - University of Georgia, 1992
  - Neuropsychology, Aging

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**Women's Studies faculty**

**Professor**

- Patricia Guthrie, Ph.D.
  - University of Rochester, 1977
  - Department Chair, Program Director
  - Social Anthropology, African Americans, Life History, South Carolina Sea Islands, Online Teaching and Learning, Women's Studies, Religion/Spirituality, Homelessness

**Selected Recent Faculty Achievements**


- Chin-Newman, C., Principal Investigator $12,833 Grant from Alameda County First 5 for Coordination of Early Childhood Option in Human Development, (2007), and co-principal investigator $220,000 Grant from Alameda County First 5 for Coordination of Early Childhood Development Option and ECE (2007-2009).


- Guthrie, Patricia, Ph.D., earned a M.S. in Education (2005) with an On-Line Teaching and Learning Option from California State University, East Bay.


**Projects and Programs**

- Program for Accelerated College Education (PACE) offers the Human Development major evening, weekend, and on-line classes.

- On-Line BA Degree Program (O.L.D.) offers a BA Degree in Human Development with options either in Adult Development and Gerontology or Women's Development fully on-line. All major requirements as well as upper division GE requirements are part of the program.

**Community Outreach**

- Majors Fair
- Internships
- Community College Fairs

**Women’s Studies Program**

The Department is also home to the Women’s Studies Program, which offers a minor in this culturally-sensitive introduction to the research, literature and methodologies of gender and women’s studies within social and economic perspectives. The diverse, interdisciplinary faculty emphasize basic understanding of local, regional, national and global power relations and how these affect issues of gender and women, both contemporarily and historically.