Human Development

Overview

Human development is the study of how people grow and change, from conception through the end of life. The changing nature of the American family, childhood and adolescence, the cultural dynamics of globalization, the influence of media on identity, children’s rights, social policies, racial identity, coping and resiliency: these are just a few of the issues you explore as a human development major at Connecticut College. Your studies integrate theory, research and practice. Some students do research with professors and co-publish scholarly papers, and three-quarters of our courses have a service-learning component. Coursework will touch on anthropology, biology, economics, education, history, medicine, psychology and other subjects.

Internships and Service Learning

You work in the local community, putting to use what you’ve learned. You also learn as you work, and take that new knowledge back to class. The department works closely with the College’s Office of Volunteers for Community Service to develop opportunities for you in local schools, community programs and non-profits.

Connecticut College Children’s Program

The Children’s Program enrolls 90 infants and young children with a wide variety of backgrounds, abilities and special needs. You work with them alongside certified teachers, aides, therapists and administrators. What you learn at the Children’s Program builds on the knowledge you gain in the classroom.

Eilis Klein

Why Connecticut College?

Q: Why Connecticut College?
A: When I came to tour Conn on Admitted Students Day, I was walking on Tempel Green with my dad and we opened up a map to find Coffee Grounds. Someone spotted us clearly struggling to locate something and ran over to us to help. That sense of community is what made me decide to come to Conn.

Why human development?

Q: Why human development?
A: I was initially interested in Psych. I have always loved emotions and people, so I was naturally drawn to that subject. But Human Development offers a broader, more comprehensive look at the world, and that has really become my passion. Human Development teaches me to look at an issue from all the different perspectives at once, so no issue is an isolated, insular event. I feel like this integrated, holistic perspective more accurately depicts the world.

Most challenging or rewarding class?

Q: Most challenging or rewarding class?
A: “Child Rights and Public Policy” has been my most rewarding class thus far. This course was my first experience with the integrated approach that Human Development brings to conversations about policy. We looked at how things like poverty, addiction, the Child Services system, socio-economic status, school culture and education policy all work together and separately to affect child rights and public policy.

Will you study abroad?

Q: Will you study abroad?
A: I am planning to study in Australia next spring. There are some interesting things going on in the fields of child development and psychology there!
Faculty

Sunil Bhatia, Professor of Human Development; Human Development Department Chair
B.A., M.A., University of Pune, India; M.Ed., Ph.D., Clark University
Racial, ethnic and migrant identity in global and transnational cultures; cultural psychology and narrative theory; ethnography and qualitative methods

Jennifer Fredricks, Professor of Human Development; Director of the Holleran Center for Community Action and Public Policy
B.A., Columbia College, Columbia University; M.A., The University of Michigan; Ph.D., Combined Program in Education and Psychology
Human development; adolescence; child and family policy; social policy; educational psychology

Michelle R. Dunlap, Professor of Human Development
B.S., Wayne State University; M.S., Ph.D., University of Florida
Improving college student coping and skills in community service-learning settings; social and personality development; contemporary family issues; multicultural issues and methods for increasing service provider cultural competency

Loren Marulis, Martha Bennett ’73 Assistant Professor of Human Development
B.S., B.A., M.A., Michigan State University; M.A., Northwestern University; M.S., Ph.D., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Human development; early cognitive development; metacognitive and self-regulatory processes; early childhood development and education; educational psychology

Selected Courses

Children’s Rights and Public Policy; Children and Family Social Policies; Children in Learning Environments; Social and Personality Development; Adolescent Development; Media, Self and Society; Children and Families in a Multicultural Society; Social Policy Analysis in Urban America; Developmental Research in Language: Ethnography, Socialization and the Construction of Self and Identity

About Connecticut College

Connecticut College is a private, highly selective liberal arts college with 1,850 students and more than 40 majors in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities, as well as the option for students to self-design majors. The College offers a high level of intellectual challenge, a campus culture that supports students to tailor their educational experience to their own interests and goals, and a four-year career development program that teaches students how to translate a liberal arts degree into a first job or graduate school admission. Connecticut College is situated in the small New England seaport of New London.

What can you do with a major in Human Development?

Assistant Principal, Andover School System
Kindergarten Teacher, Jerome Harrison School
Speech and Language Pathologist, New York Eye and Ear Infirmary
Assistant Director of Admissions, Harvard Divinity School
Assistant Director of Women’s Philanthropy, Andover School System
Occupational Therapist, Shriners Hospitals for Children
Assistant Clinical Professor, Yale University
Director, Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center Inc.
Administrative Director, Child Care Corp.
Child Development Specialist, Children’s National Medical Center
Clinical Social Worker, Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles
Associate Director of Professional Development, New York City Department of Education
Associate Director of Marketing and Sales, John Wiley & Sons Inc.
Elementary Autism Teacher, Winthrop School
Seventh Grade English and Language Arts Teacher, Achievement First Charter Schools

For more information, visit www.conncoll.edu/academics/