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
Human Development

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.

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.

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.

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 childhood 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 educates students to put the liberal arts into action as citizens in a global society. A leader in the liberal arts since 1911, the College is home to nationally ranked programs for internships, community action, arts and technology, environmental studies and international studies. Our beautiful 750-acre arboretum campus is located in the historic New England seaport community of New London, Conn.

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