

**George Mason University**  
**College of Education and Human Development**  
**Counseling Program**

EDCD 525.A11 – Advanced Human Growth and Development  
3 Credits, Summer 2020  
Asynchronous Format - Online

**Faculty**

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**Prerequisites/Corequisites**

None

**University Catalog Course Description**

Covers human development throughout the life span, including emotional, physical, and cognitive development; and emphasizes personal adjustment and achievement.

**Course Overview**

This course will cover human development throughout the life span, including emotional, physical, cognitive, and social development with an emphasis on the influences of cultural phenomena on behavior. Note: There are no prerequisites for this course and you may register for this class as a non-degree student. However, this is Advanced Human Growth and Development and students need to have a strong working knowledge of the basic theories of human growth and development and related issues. The course involves a critique of different theories of human development, culture, lifespan processes, and the relationship and among these. The journey will generally follow a sequential approach, looking at key processes and topics in each of life's stages.

**Course Delivery Method**

This course will be delivered online (76% or more) using an asynchronous format via Blackboard Learning Management system (LMS) housed in the MyMason portal. You will log in to the Blackboard (Bb) course site using your Mason email name (everything before @masonlive.gmu.edu) and email password. The course site will be available on Monday, May 25 at 5:00 p.m.

**Under no circumstances, may candidates/students participate in online class sessions (either by phone or Internet) while operating motor vehicles. Further, as expected in a face-to-face class meeting, such online participation requires undivided attention to course content and communication.**

## *Technical Requirements*

To participate in this course, students will need to satisfy the following technical requirements:

- High-speed Internet access with standard up-to-date browsers. To get a list of Blackboard's supported browsers see:

[https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting\\_Started/Browser\\_Support#supported-browsers](https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#supported-browsers)

To get a list of supported operation systems on different devices see:

[https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting\\_Started/Browser\\_Support#tested-devices-and-operating-systems](https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#tested-devices-and-operating-systems)

- Students must maintain consistent and reliable access to their GMU email and Blackboard, as these are the official methods of communication for this course.
- Students will need a headset microphone for use with the Blackboard Collaborate web conferencing tool. [Delete this sentence if not applicable.]
- Students may be asked to create logins and passwords on supplemental websites and/or to download trial software to their computer or tablet as part of course requirements.
- The following software plug-ins for PCs and Macs, respectively, are available for free download: [Add or delete options, as desire.]
  - Adobe Acrobat Reader: <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
  - Windows Media Player: <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/14209/get-windows-media-player>
  - Apple Quick Time Player: [www.apple.com/quicktime/download/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)

## *Expectations*

- Course Week: Because asynchronous courses do not have a “fixed” meeting day, our week will start on Monday and finish on Sunday.
- Log-in Frequency:  
Students must actively check the course Blackboard site and their GMU email for communications from the instructor, class discussions, and/or access to course materials at least 2-3 times per week.
- Participation:  
Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which includes viewing all course materials, completing course activities and assignments, and participating in course discussions and group interactions.
- Technical Competence:  
Students are expected to demonstrate competence in the use of all course technology. Students who are struggling with technical components of the course are expected to seek assistance from the instructor and/or College or University technical services.
- Technical Issues:  
Students should anticipate some technical difficulties during the semester and should, therefore, budget their time accordingly. Late work will not be accepted based on individual technical issues.

- **Workload:**  
Please be aware that this course is **not** self-paced. Students are expected to meet *specific deadlines* and *due dates* listed in the **Class Schedule** section of this syllabus. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of the weekly course schedule of topics, readings, activities and assignments due.
- **Instructor Support:**  
Students may schedule a one-on-one meeting to discuss course requirements, content, or other course-related issues. Students should email the instructor to schedule a one-on-one session via web conference and suggested dates/times.
- **Netiquette:**  
The course environment is a collaborative space. Experience shows that even an innocent remark typed in the online environment can be misconstrued. Students must always re-read their responses carefully before posting them, so as others do not consider them as personal offenses. *Be positive in your approach with others and diplomatic in selecting your words.* Remember that you are not competing with classmates but sharing information and learning from others. All faculty are similarly expected to be respectful in all communications.
- **Accommodations:**  
Online learners who require effective accommodations to ensure accessibility must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services.

### **CACREP Standards/Learner Outcomes or Objectives**

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

1. Critique and examine the major theories of human growth and development and their applicability across different cultures; to include, individual and family development, learning, normal and abnormal personality development across the lifespan (CACREP 2.F.3.a.; 2.F.3.b.; 2.F.3.c.).
2. Understand biological, neurological, physiological, systemic, and environmental factors that affect human development, functioning, and behavior (CACREP 2.F.3.e.; 2.F.3.f.).
3. Apply a general framework for understanding differing abilities and strategies for differentiated interventions (CACREP 2.F.3.h.).
4. Gain knowledge of ethical and culturally relevant strategies for promoting resilience and optimum development and wellness across the lifespan (CACREP 2.F.3.i.).
5. Understand and appreciate the complexities of culture and its influence on human growth and development (CACREP 2.F.3.f.).
6. Examine research methodologies used to study human development and assess their validity and reliability. Understand the advantages and limitations of these methodologies for cross cultural studies
7. Develop an understanding of human development and cultural influences that will be applicable to the field of teaching, counseling, parenting, etc. Develop an ability to ask meaningful questions about cross cultural development for future research.

### **Required Texts**

Broderick, P. C. & Blewitt, P. (2020). *The life span: Human Development for helping professionals* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Columbus, OH: Pearson.

### **Course Performance Evaluation**

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor. (e.g., Blackboard, TK20, hard copy).

## Grading

<b><u>GRADED ASSIGNMENTS:</u></b>	
Discussion Forums/Participation	30 points
Lifespan Collage	25 points
Final Research Paper	45 points
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>100</b>

## Assignments and/or Examinations

The following assignments are designed to guide you in accomplishing the course objectives. Late assignments, if not arranged otherwise with me, will be penalized 10% for each day not submitted. You may submit assignments via e-mail before class if you are unable to attend class on the due date. All papers must be type written in APA (7th ed.) format. Papers that are not in APA format and/or are over the page limit will be penalized and result in a grade reduction. The page limit does not include title page, abstract or references.

1. **Discussion Forums:** Students will be required to participate in a discussion forum that pertains to questions related to the different stages of development. First read the instructor's post/question and then post your initial response which should be no more than 150 words. Your response should contain relevant information from the readings. **Your initial post is due the Monday & Wednesday of the week it is due (by 5:00 p.m.), and you must respond to two of your peers by that Sunday at 5:00 p.m. You will receive instructor feedback, within 72 hours of the initial post. Detailed information of the due dates is provided below.**

**After your primary response to the instructor's post, please read the other responses.** Look for common themes or other areas of interest or inquiry. Part of your grade will be based on the interaction and meaningful replies that you have with other students' contributions as well as your own response to the question.

2. **Lifespan Collage:** Students will prepare a collage in an online format (such as Padlet or Shadow Puppet App) that is reflective of your current stage of lifespan development. The project should be comprehensive in nature, reflecting not only your physical, psychosocial and cognitive development, but also how you see your spiritual/moral development, culture/gender development, self-efficacy and family life-span development. This project is experiential in nature and can include drawings, pictures, etc. and should have a limited written component (no more than 200 words).
3. **Final Research Paper:** You are required to write a paper that reviews current research (majority within the past 10 years; at least 10 total references from peer reviewed journals) related to a topic that impacts human growth and development. You will be asked to select a topic of interest and include findings as well as a critique of the research and its findings. The influence of culture and environment on the topic area must also be discussed. Your paper should be structured to include an introduction, literature review section that focuses on how this topic influences the 4 domains of development (physical, cognitive, social-emotional and language), cultural considerations, and counseling implications. The text of your paper must be at least 8 and no more than 10 pages long (not including cover page, abstract and references). If needed, I will provide you with a list of possible research topics to guide your topic selection process. This paper should be written in APA style (cover page, abstract, and references included) (**CACREP A.3.a.1**)

For additional clarification about course requirements and assignments, please contact me.

## Class Schedule

Dates	Readings	Topics & Activities	Assignments Due	CACREP standards
<b>Week 1</b> June 1 – June 7	Ch. 1 - 2	Introductions & syllabus review Organizing Themes The Fundamentals of Behavioral Development	*Discussion – “The First 8 weeks”	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
<b>Week 1</b> June 1 – June 7	Ch. 3- 5	Early Years in Cog. Devel. Early Years in Emo. & Social Early Years in Emerging Self & Socialization	Discussion – Infancy & Early Childhood	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
<b>Week 2</b> June 8 – June 14	Ch. 6 - 7	Realms of Cognition Self & Moral Development	Discussion – Mid Childhood – Early Adolescence	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
<b>Week 3</b> June 15 – June 21	Ch. 8 - 10	Gender & Peer Relationships Physical, Cognitive, Identity Development The Social World of Adolescence	Discussion – Adolescence	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
<b>Week 4</b> June 22 – June 28	Ch. 11 - 12	Young Adulthood in Physical, Cognitive Development Young Adulthood in Socioemotional and Vocational Development	Discussion – Young adulthood <b>Lifespan Collage due Thursday, June 25 at 11:59 p.m.</b>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
<b>Week 4</b> June 22 – June 28	Ch. 13	Middle Adulthood Cognitive, Personality, and Social Development	Discussion – Middle Adulthood	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
<b>Week 5</b> June 29 – July 5	Ch. 14 - 15	Late Adulthood: Living Well Gains & Losses	Discussion – Late Adulthood	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
<b>Week 5</b> June 29 – July 5		<b>Research Paper due Thursday, July 2 at 11:59 p.m.</b>	Assignment 2 – Mid Childhood - Early Adolescence	

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

### Discussion Summaries

### When you should post your initial response

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
<b>June 1:</b> Introductions	<b>June 8:</b> No discussion	<b>June 15:</b> No discussion	<b>June 22:</b> Young adulthood	<b>June 29:</b> Late adulthood
<b>June 3:</b> Infancy and Early Childhood	<b>June 10:</b> Mid. Childhood – Early Adolescence	<b>June 17:</b> Adolescence	<b>June 24:</b> Middle Adulthood	<b>July 1:</b> No discussion

## Professional Dispositions Assessment

Professional Dispositions are assessed in all required courses. The minimum score (benchmark) is based on the level of the course, as described below.

Students must adhere to program professional dispositions:

<https://cehd.gmu.edu/assets/docs/forms/Professional%20Dispositions.pdf>

Level of Assessment	CMHC	SC	Minimum Score
Basic	602, 609, 601, 525, 603, 604 654, 652, 656, 658	602, 606, 601, 525, 603, 604 613, 611, 626, 615	2
Intermediate	608, 750, 660, 628, 619, 621, 610, 797	608, 751, 660, 628, 619, 621, 610, 797	3
Advanced	792, 793	794, 795	4

Professional Dispositions assessments are scored as follows:

- **4: Consistently Evident** – The student demonstrates the disposition all or almost all of the time. This rank is considered exceptional, particularly for students who are at the beginning of their program. Students who are advanced in the program (i.e., in their last year of the program and enrolled in Internship I or II) should expect to achieve this rank.
- **3: Frequently Evident** – The student demonstrates the disposition often or most of the time. It is expected that students in the middle of the program (i.e., usually the second year for full time or third year for part time students) will achieve this rank. This reflects that they have moved beyond the initial phase of counselor training and are developing well towards being a professional counselor.
- **2: Sometimes Evident** – The student demonstrates the disposition sometimes or inconsistently. It is expected that students at the beginning of the program (i.e., first year for most students) will achieve this rank. Students at the beginning of the program are expected to be developing towards these professional dispositions as a part of their counselor training and preparation for their future as a professional counselor.
- **1: Seldom Evident** – The student demonstrates the disposition rarely or not at all. In some instances, this may also indicate a harmful demonstration of professional disposition(s). Students at the beginning of their program may achieve this rank, which can be developmentally appropriate as they learn the expectations for students and future professional counselors. Should this occur, students should expect to meet with their advisor, who will assist them in addressing the area of concern.

**N/A: Not Applicable** – An instructor or supervisor may use this to note that they did not have the opportunity to observe the disposition or that it was not relevant in the given context. This is most likely to occur at the beginning of the program when some dispositions may not be germane to the particular class.

## **Counseling and Development Mission Statement**

The Counseling Program is committed to preparing counselors who promote the social, psychological, physical, and spiritual health of individuals, families, communities, and organizations in order to contribute to the advancement of global well-being. The program strives for national and international excellence in implementing a counseling perspective which provides a foundation in basic counseling skills and focuses on social justice, multiculturalism, international, advocacy and leadership. It is our belief that a global perspective on development across the life span, and an understanding and appreciation of multiculturalism, diversity, and social justice are integral to the preparation of professional counselors, requiring that professional counselors are prepared to assume leadership roles, be proactive change agents and become advocates for social, economic and political justice. The program is committed to accomplish this mission by working through interdisciplinary teams as well as promote the interconnectedness of teaching, research, service and professional practice. Through this mission faculty will facilitate a continued tradition of international, national and regional leadership through the development of collaborative partnerships and projects, research, publications, presentations, consultation, and training.

## **Core Values Commitment**

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles: <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>.

## **GMU Policies and Resources for Students**

### *Policies*

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/> ).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see <https://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students **solely** through their Mason email account.
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see <https://ds.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must silence all sound emitting devices during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

### *Campus Resources*

- Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to [tk20help@gmu.edu](mailto:tk20help@gmu.edu) or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/>.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>



**Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking:**

As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1202. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730, or emailing [titleix@gmu.edu](mailto:titleix@gmu.edu).

**For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/>.**

**Assessment Rubric(s):**

***A.3.a.1 – CMHC & SC: Research Paper in 525***

Area Assessed	%	Exceeds Standards 4 A [100-97]; A- [96-94]	Meets Standards 3 B+ [93-91]; B [90-87]	Approaching Standards 2 B- [86-84]; C [83-80]	Below Standards 1 F [79 and below]
1. Literature review	10	Demonstrates an exceptional understanding of research methodologies used to study human development.	Demonstrates a good understanding of research methodologies used to study human development.	Demonstrates a limited understanding of research methodologies used to study human development and assesses their validity and reliability in a limited way.	Demonstrates limited or no understanding of research methodologies used to study human development and fails to accurately assess their validity and reliability.
3. Domains of development [KPI A.3.a.1; CACREP 2.F.3.f]	10	Demonstrates an exceptional ability to research and meaningfully and thoroughly assess the impact of selected topic on the 4 domains of development.	Demonstrates the ability to research and meaningfully assess the impact of selected topic on the 4 domains of development.	Demonstrates limited ability to research and assess the impact of selected topic on the 4 domains of development.	Demonstrates little or no ability to research or assess the impact of selected topic on the 4 domains of development.
4. Theories of human growth and development [KPI A.3.a.1; CACREP 2.F.3.f]	10	Provides an exceptionally thorough and robust critique and examination of the relevant theories of human growth and development and their applicability.	Provides thorough critique and examination of the relevant theories of human growth and development and their applicability.	Provides a limited critique and examination of the relevant theories of human growth and development and their applicability.	Provides little or no critique or examination of the relevant theories of human growth and development and their applicability.

5. Culturally and developmentally specific counseling considerations [KPI A.3.a.1; CACREP 2.F.3.f]	5	Demonstrates an exceptional ability to identify meaningful and relevant culturally and developmentally specific counseling considerations, including systemic and environmental factors that affect human development, functioning, and behavior.	Demonstrates the ability to identify relevant culturally and developmentally specific counseling considerations, including systemic and environmental factors that affect human development, functioning, and behavior.	Demonstrates a limited ability to identify culturally and developmentally specific counseling considerations, including systemic and environmental factors that affect human development, functioning, and behavior.	Demonstrates little or no ability to identify culturally and developmentally specific counseling considerations.
6. Counseling Implications [KPI A.3.a.1; CACREP 2.F.3.i]	5	Demonstrates an exceptional understanding of and ability to apply ethical and culturally relevant strategies for promoting resilience and optimum development and wellness across the lifespan	Demonstrates an accurate understanding of and ability to apply ethical and culturally relevant strategies for promoting resilience and optimum development and wellness across the lifespan	Demonstrates some understanding of ethical and culturally relevant strategies for promoting resilience and optimum development and wellness across the lifespan	Demonstrates limited or no understanding of ethical and culturally relevant strategies for promoting resilience and optimum development and wellness across the lifespan
7. APA and Writing Style	5	Adheres to APA format (7th ed.) and is clear, understandable, exceptionally well organized, and grammatically correct. No APA errors. Language is appropriate for the type of paper. Adheres to paper requirements for page limit and headers/sub-headers.	Adheres to APA format (7th ed.) with only a few errors; is clear, well organized, understandable, and grammatically correct with only a few errors. Language is mostly appropriate for the type of paper. Adheres to paper requirements for page limit and headers/sub-headers with only a few errors.	Has errors in APA format (7th ed.), lacks clarity, not well organized, and has grammatical errors. Language is somewhat appropriate for the type of paper. Adheres to some of paper requirements for page limit and headers/sub-headers.	Does not follow APA format, is unclear, is poorly organized, and has many grammatical errors. Language is generally not appropriate for the type of paper. Adheres to few or none of the paper requirements for page limit and headers/sub-headers.