

**PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

**DEVELOPMENTAL SPECIALIZATION**

**OVERVIEW**

In the Developmental Specialization, students will consider how development across the lifespan (from infancy through aging) is influenced by social relationships, cultural contexts, and individual differences (e.g., temperament). Students will choose among seminars that specialize in a developmental stage (e.g., adolescence), on a type of development (e.g., identity), on a developmental influence (e.g., the media), or on psychopathology (e.g., attention deficits). Research (laboratory and field) and internship opportunities will ask students to apply, in real-world settings, the theories and facts learned in the classroom. This specialization will prepare students for graduate work and/or careers related to normative development in infancy, childhood, adolescence, and all phases of adulthood.

For more information about this specialization, contact the Developmental Psychology Coordinator (Dr. Graham, jgraham@tcnj.edu) or any of the affiliated faculty listed below.

**COURSEWORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENTAL SPECIALIZATION**

*Core Courses* (Taken in Sequence)

* PSY 101 - General Psychology
* PSY 121 - Methods & Tools
* PSY 203 - Design & Statistical Analysis
* PSY 299 - Research Seminar\*

*Foundation Courses* (Choose 3)

* PSY 220 — Development across the Lifespan (or equivalent - ECE 201, ELE 201, SPE 203 or NUR 110) with a minimum grade of C+
* Other Foundation Courses (Choose 2)

*Specialized Courses* (Choose 3)

Choose 2 from the following:

* PSY 320 – Origins of Social Cognition
* PSY 321 – Children’s Social and Personality Development
* PSY 322 – Children and the Media
* PSY 323 – School Psychology
* PSY 370 – Developmental Seminar [may take more than once]
  + Subtopics include: Racial and Ethnic Identity Development, Peer Relationships, Child Therapy, Child Development, Adolescent Development

Choose one additional Specialized (300 level) Course:

* One of the following courses can count towards this requirement *if it has a Developmental focus*:

PSY 390 – Laboratory Learning\*  
PSY 393 – Individual Study\*  
PSY 396 – Honors Thesis I\*  
PSY 397 – Instructional Internship\*  
PSY 399 – Internship\*

\* Students may apply one of these courses as a Specialized course.  Others may apply as a Psychology Option.

*Psychology Option*: (Choose 1)

* Recommended course at 300-Level or 400-Level

*Senior Experience* (Choose 1)

* Students must select 1 senior experience course including Senior Topics Seminar; Individual Study; Internship; Lab Learning; and Honors Thesis.

**FACULTY AFFILIATED with the DEVELOPMENTAL SPECIALIZATION**

***Dr. James Graham***(Office: SB 122; Phone: 609.771.2638; E-mail: [jgraham@tcnj.edu](mailto:sarcher@tcnj.edu))

*Courses:* Development Across the Lifespan; Research Seminar (Child Development); Developmental Seminar (Children’s Peer Relationships & Friendships; Children and the Media; Social and Personality Development); Senior Topics (Cross-Cultural Child Development)

*Research Interests:* Empathy and prosocial behavior in peer relationships; School/Community-based research partnerships; Program evaluation

*Research Lab:* [Social and Emotional Development](https://sites.google.com/a/tcnj.edu/social-and-emotional-development-lab/)

***Dr. Adaurennaya C. Onyewuenyi***(Office:  SB 137; Phone: 609.771.2430; E-mail: [onyewuea@tcnj.edu](mailto:onyewuea@tcnj.edu))

*Courses:* Methods and Tools; Development Across the Lifespan; Developmental Seminar (Racial and Ethnic Identity Development)

*Research Interests:* Adolescents; Racial & Ethnic Identity Development; Immigration; Intersectionality; African Diaspora; Black Education; Peer Relations; Discrimination; Academic Achievement; Mixed Methods Research

*Research Lab:* Identity Development across the African Diaspora (IDAD) Lab

***Dr. Aimee Stahl***(Office: SB 137; Phone: 609.771.2702; E-mail: stahla@tcnj.edu)

*Courses:* Methods and Tools; Development Across the Lifespan; Developmental Seminar (Origins of Social Cognition)

*Research Interests:* Cognitive development; Learning and memory in infants and children; Social cognition

*Research Lab:* [Cognitive Development](https://www.tcnjcogdevlab.com/)

***Dr. Tamra Bireta***(Office: SB 108; Phone: 609.771.3069; E-mail: t[bireta@tcnj.edu](mailto:bireta@tcnj.edu))

*Courses:* Cognitive Psychology; Methods and Tools; Cognitive Seminar (Memory across the Lifespan)

*Research Interests:* Memorability of different types of information; Age-related differences in patterns of memory performance

*Research Lab:* [Memory and Aging](http://memory.pages.tcnj.edu/)

***Dr. He Len Chung***(Office: SB 114; Phone: 609.771.2646; E-mail: chung@tcnj.edu)

*Courses:* Methods and Tools; Abnormal Psychology; Counseling & Clinical Seminar (Mental Health and Poverty); Psychosocial Interventions for Children and Adolescents; Internship in Psychology

*Research Interests:* Positive Youth Development; Resilience During the Transition to Adulthood; Community-Based Research

*Research Lab:* [Research on Engagement, Adjustment, and Community Health](https://reachlab.pages.tcnj.edu/) (REACH)

***Dr. Candice Feiring*** *(*Office: SB 139; Phone: 609.771.2649; E-mail: [feiring@tcnj.edu](mailto:sarcher@tcnj.edu))

*Courses:* Lab Learning: The Romantic Relationships Research Lab; Senior Seminar in Childhood Sexual Abuse

*Research Interests:* Quality of Romantic Relationships in Adolescents and Young Adults; Meaning Making Processes in close relationships; Narrative Methodology; Adaptation to Childhood Sexual Abuse over time; Self-conscious Emotions; Gender

*Research Lab:* [Romantic Relationships Research](http://www.tcnj.edu/~cyrd/romancestudy.htm)

***Dr. Betsy Ruddy***(Office: SB 119; Phone: 609.771.2630; E-mail: [ruddy@tcnj.edu](mailto:sarcher@tcnj.edu))

*Courses:* Biopsychology; Psychopharmacology; Research Seminar in Developmental Psychology; Research Methods; Student-Faculty Research (Infant-Child Studies)

*Research Interests:* Attention, Temperament, Imagination, and Play in Infancy and Early Childhood; Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder; Parenting; Psychopathology

*Research Lab:* [Infant and Child Studies](http://infantchildlab.pages.tcnj.edu/)

***Dr. Jeanine Vivona***(Office: SB 120; Phone: 609.771.2634; E-mail: j[vivona@tcnj.edu](mailto:sarcher@tcnj.edu))

*Courses:* Abnormal Psychology; Research Seminar in Clinical Psychology; Clinical Psychology; Developmental Psychopathology; Collaborative Research Course; Counseling & Clinical Field Study Seminar; Senior Topics Study Group

*Research Interests:* Psychotherapy process; Language; Identity Development; Sibling Relationships

*Research Lab:* Clinical Lab

**RECENT STUDENT-FACULTY COLLABORATIONS and INTERNSHIPS**

* + Service-learning: Implications for empathy and community engagement in elementary school children
  + The effect of a peer-based personal stories intervention on focus of anxiety and social distance towards people with mental illness
  + Language acquisition in infants
  + African American immigrants and education
  + Implementing an anti-bullying curriculum in primary- and secondary-schools
  + Racial discrimination and grades
  + Relationships between attention and imaginative play
  + Emotional regulation and meaning making processing in sexually abused youth
  + Content and frequency of children’s worry
  + Internship: Celebrate the Children (school for special-needs children)
  + Internship: Office of the Child Advocate
  + Internship: School Psychology
  + Internship: Intelligence Analyst

**DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY CAREERS**

* + School Counselor
  + Research Position
  + Infant Stimulation Programmer
  + Education/Recreational Programmer
  + Hospital/Hospice Facilitator