

# Developmental Science

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## Department Information

- **Department Head:**  
Joel Hektner, Ph.D.
- **Graduate Coordinator:**  
Heather Fuller, Ph.D.
- **Department Location:**  
Evelyn Morrow Lebedeff Hall
- **Department Phone:**  
(701) 231-8268
- **Department Web Site:**  
[www.ndsu.edu/hdfs/graduate\\_studies/ds/](http://www.ndsu.edu/hdfs/graduate_studies/ds/) ([http://www.ndsu.edu/hdfs/graduate\\_studies/ds/](http://www.ndsu.edu/hdfs/graduate_studies/ds/))
- **Application Deadline:**  
February 1
- **Credential Offered:**  
Ph.D.
- **English Proficiency Requirements:**  
TOEFL iBT 100 (subscores of at least 24 for speaking and 21 for writing); IELTS 7; Duolingo 125

## Curriculum for students entering with a Bachelor's degree (90 credits total)

- Students earn a Master's degree after completing 30 credits, master's oral examination and the master's thesis.
- All courses 3 credits unless otherwise noted.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Development Core</b>		<b>12</b>
HDFS 811	Developmental Concepts and Theories	
HDFS 813	Social and Emotional Development Across the Lifespan	
HDFS 815	Physical and Cognitive Development Across the Lifespan	
HDFS 817	Prevention Science	
<b>Teaching Core</b>		<b>6</b>
HDFS 892	Graduate Teaching Experience	
Choose one:		
HDFS 802	Teaching Developmental Science	
COMM 702	Introduction to College Teaching in the Humanities and Social Sciences	
STEM 810	Teaching College Science	
<b>Methodology and Statistics Core</b>		<b>10</b>
HDFS 705	Quantitative Methods in Developmental Science (4 credits)	
HDFS 856	Longitudinal Research Methods and Analysis	
One additional course in quantitative methods approved by adviser and committee or program coordinator		
<b>Electives</b>		<b>15</b>
Must include 9 credits in didactic 700- or 800-level courses (in HDFS or other departments) (HDFS 824 or HDFS 825 recommended)		
Can include, distributed in varying credit amounts across multiple semesters:		
HDFS 893	Individual Study/Tutorial (maximum of 6 additional credits (beyond the 18 required) )	
HDFS 894	Practicum/Internship (focus on teaching or non-academic role)	
<b>Non-Didactic Courses</b>		<b>8</b>
HDFS 801	Graduate Orientation Seminar (1 credit)	
HDFS 805	Professional Development in Developmental Science (1 credit)	
HDFS 890	Graduate Seminar (Qualifying Exam/Career, 6 credits total)	
2 credits during spring before doing qualifying exam; 2 credits in summer during qualifying exam; 2 credits during final year to focus on career development		
<b>Independent Research</b>		<b>39</b>

HDFS 893	Individual Study/Tutorial (18 credits)	
HDFS 798	Master's Thesis (6 credits)	
HDFS 899	Doctoral Dissertation (15 credits)	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>90</b>

## Curriculum for students entering with a Master's degree (60 credits total)

- Students may follow this track only if their Master's degree and thesis was approved by the Developmental Science Committee upon admission.
- Additional coursework may be necessary to compensate for courses not taken.
- All courses 3 credits unless otherwise noted.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Development Core</b>		<b>12</b>
HDFS 811	Developmental Concepts and Theories	
HDFS 813	Social and Emotional Development Across the Lifespan	
HDFS 815	Physical and Cognitive Development Across the Lifespan	
HDFS 817	Prevention Science	
<b>Teaching Core</b>		<b>6</b>
HDFS 892	Graduate Teaching Experience	
Choose one:		
HDFS 802	Teaching Developmental Science	
COMM 702	Introduction to College Teaching in the Humanities and Social Sciences	
STEM 810	Teaching College Science	
<b>Methodology and Statistics Core</b>		<b>6</b>
HDFS 856	Longitudinal Research Methods and Analysis	
One additional course in quantitative methods approved by adviser and committee or program coordinator		
<b>Didactic Electives</b>		<b>3</b>
could include HDFS 824, HDFS 825, HDFS 893, HDFS 894, or 700- or 800-level course in HDFS or other department.		
<b>Non-Didactic Courses</b>		<b>8</b>
HDFS 801	Graduate Orientation Seminar (1 credit)	
HDFS 805	Professional Development in Developmental Science (1 credit)	
HDFS 890	Graduate Seminar (Qualifying Exam/Career, 6 credits total)	
2 credits during spring before doing qualifying exam; 2 credits in summer during qualifying exam; 2 credits during final year to focus on career development		
<b>Independent Research</b>		<b>25</b>
HDFS 893	Individual Study/Tutorial (10 credits)	
HDFS 899	Doctoral Dissertation (15 credits)	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>60</b>

## Other Requirements

- Teach one undergraduate course, with supervision, for course credit in HDFS 892. Must have first taken HDFS 802 (<https://currbulletin.ndsu.edu/search/?P=HDFS%20802>) Teaching Developmental Science as well as two courses out of HDFS 811, 813, 815, and 817.
- Submit at least four proposal/abstracts for presentations or posters at national conferences, including as a co-presenter (2 submissions if enter with MS)
- Present (in person) at least twice at national conferences (once if enter with MS), unless a waiver is granted by the student's committee.
- Submit at least two peer-reviewed articles for publication (including as co-author). Note: Although these presentation and publication requirements do not carry course credit per se, they are projects that would be worked on as part of HDFS 893 (<https://currbulletin.ndsu.edu/search/?P=HDFS%20893>) Individual Study/Tutorial, and/or HDFS 899 (<https://currbulletin.ndsu.edu/search/?P=HDFS%20899>) Doctoral Dissertation.
- Qualifying examination
- Dissertation