

Developmental Science Doctorate

Department Information

- **Program Information:**
ndsu.edu/programs/graduate/developmental-science (<http://ndsu.edu/programs/graduate/developmental-science/>)
- **Department Web Site:**
ndsu.edu/hdfs/programs/developmental-science-phd (<http://ndsu.edu/hdfs/programs/developmental-science-phd/>)
- **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

Apply Now (https://ndsugrad.my.site.com/Application/TX_SiteLogin/?startURL=/Application/TargetX_Portal__PB)

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 are 3 credits unless otherwise noted.

Code	Title	Credits
Development Core		12
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	
Teaching Core		6
HDFS 802	Teaching and Learning in the Human Sciences ¹	
HDFS 892		
Methodology and Statistics Core		12
HDFS 705	Quantitative Methods in Developmental Science	
HDFS 805	Research Methods and Scholar Development in Human Sciences	
HDFS 854	Advanced Quantitative Methods in Developmental Science ¹	
HDFS 856	Longitudinal Research Methods and Analysis ¹	
Electives		15
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	(maximum of 6 additional credits (beyond the 17 required))	
HDFS 894	(focus on teaching or non-academic role)	
Non-Didactic Courses		7
HDFS 890	(Orientation/Comps/Career, 7 credits total)	
1 credit orientation in first semester; 4 credits to prep and complete comprehensive exam; 2 credits during final year to focus on career development		
Independent Research		38
HDFS 893	(17 credits)	
HDFS 798	(6 credits)	
HDFS 899	(15 credits)	
Total Credits		90

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
Development Core		12
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	
Teaching Core		6
HDFS 802	Teaching and Learning in the Human Sciences ¹	
HDFS 892		
Methodology and Statistics Core		9
HDFS 805	Research Methods and Scholar Development in Human Sciences	
HDFS 854	Advanced Quantitative Methods in Developmental Science ¹	
HDFS 856	Longitudinal Research Methods and Analysis ¹	
Elective		3
could include HDFS 824, HDFS 825, HDFS 893, HDFS 894, or 700- or 800-level course in HDFS or other department.		
Non-Didactic Courses		7
HDFS 890	(Orientation/Comps/Career, 7 credits total)	
1 credit orientation in first semester; 4 credits to prep and complete comprehensive exam; 2 credits during final year to focus on career development		
Independent Research		23
HDFS 893	(8 credits)	
HDFS 899	(15 credits)	
Total Credits		60

1. Course can be substituted with another course approved by advisor and committee or program coordinator.

Additional Requirements

- Teach one undergraduate course, with supervision, for course credit in HDFS 892 (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2025-2026/search/?P=HDFS%20892>) Graduate Teaching Experience. Must have first taken a teaching pedagogy course HDFS 802 (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2025-2026/search/?P=HDFS%20802>) Teaching and Learning in the Human Sciences, COMM 702 (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2025-2026/search/?P=COMM%20702>) Introduction to College Teaching in the Humanities and Social Sciences, or STEM 810 (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2025-2026/search/?P=STEM%20810>) Teaching College Science, as well as two courses out of HDFS 811 (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2025-2026/search/?P=HDFS%20811>) Developmental Concepts and Theories, HDFS 813 (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2025-2026/search/?P=HDFS%20813>) Social and Emotional Development Across the Lifespan, HDFS 815 (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2025-2026/search/?P=HDFS%20815>) Physical and Cognitive Development Across the Lifespan, and HDFS 817 (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2025-2026/search/?P=HDFS%20817>) Prevention Science.
- 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 798 (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2025-2026/search/?P=HDFS%20798>) Master's Thesis, HDFS 893 (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2025-2026/search/?P=HDFS%20893>) Individual Study/Tutorial, and/or HDFS 899 (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2025-2026/search/?P=HDFS%20899>) Doctoral Dissertation.

Admission and Application Requirements

- Graduate School admission and application requirements are found on the Admission Information (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2025-2026/graduate/admission-information/>) page.

- In addition, this program requires the following be submitted:
 - a. A statement of purpose that is 500 words or less and addresses the following:
 - What your professional goals are and how this graduate program will help you accomplish your professional goals
 - What your research interests are and how they might fit with the current research emphases in the department. If you have questions about this, the HDFS faculty research interests are described on the HDFS website (<http://www.ndsu.edu/hdfs>) (https://www.ndsu.edu/hdfs/graduate_studies/ds/developmental_science_program_faculty/).
 - The experiences you have had (e.g. informal, academic, employment, volunteer) that you see as related to this graduate program or your professional goal
 - b. Curriculum vitae or resume
 - c. Thesis or writing sample
- Applicants entering with a master's degree:
 - Must have a master's degree from accredited educational institution in child development, developmental psychology, human development, developmental science, or related area
 - At least one course in statistics and one course in research methods, with a grade of B or higher
 - Completion of an empirical master's thesis
- Applicants entering with a bachelor's degree:
 - Must have a bachelor's degree from accredited educational institution in child development, developmental psychology, human development, developmental science, or related area