

# 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; Duolinger 125

## Core Faculty

### Sean Brotherson, Ph.D.

Oregon State University, 2000

Research Interests: Parenting and Fatherhood; Healthy Marriages; Family Stress; Rural Families; Grief and Bereavement; Family Life Education; Family Policy

### James E. Deal, Ph.D.

University of Georgia, 1987

Research Interests: Personality Development in Children; Relationship Between Individual Development and Family Relationships

### Heather Fuller, Ph.D.

University of Michigan, 2009

Research Interests: Social Relationships Across the Lifespan (E.G. Intergenerational Relationships); Psychological Well-Being in Old Age; Culture and Aging; Migration, Transnationalism and Acculturation; Biculturalism

### Joel Hektner, Ph.D.

University of Chicago, 1996

Research Interests: Aggressive Children; Research Methods; Prevention Programs For High-Risk Aggressive Children; Peer Affiliation Patterns and Peer Influences on Children's Behaviors; Family and School Conditions That Facilitate Optimal Experiences (Flow) and Optimal Development; The Experience Sampling Method

### Melissa Lunsman O'Connor, Ph.D.

University of South Florida, 2010

Research Interests: Cognitive and Functional Aging in Healthy and Clinical Populations; Older Drivers; Research Methods; Attitudes toward Dementia

### Wen Wang, Ph.D.

Michigan State University, 2018

Research Interests: How culture and ethnicity shape parenting; Socialization of children's mastery motivation in at-risk families

Affiliated Faculty within HDFS

### Carrie Johnson, Ph.D.

Iowa State University, 2012

Research Interests: Personal Finance for Low-Income and Under-served Populations; Financial Education Impact; Student Loan Debt; Program Delivery Methods and Evaluation; Behavioral Finance across the Lifespan

### Christie McGeorge, Ph.D.

University of Minnesota, 2005

Research Interests: Heterosexism and Homophobia; Single Parenting; Women's History; Gender Socialization From a Feminist Perspective

**Meagan Scott Hoffman, Ph.D.**

Oklahoma State University, 2016

Research Interests: Understanding How Changing Trends in Society Influence Youth; Afterschool Training; Positive Youth Development; Professional Development Methods to Better Meet the Needs of 4-H Staff

## **Affiliated Faculty outside of HDFS**

**Ben Balas, Ph.D.,**

Psychology

**Sarah Boonstoppel, Ph.D.,**

Political Science

**Erin Conwell, Ph.D.,**

Psychology

**Donna Grandbois, Ph.D.,**

Nursing

**Britt Heidinger, Ph.D.,**

Biological Sciences

**Brent Hill, Ph.D.,**

Education

**Andrea Huseth-Zosel, Ph.D.,**

Public Health

**Linda Langley, Ph.D.,**

Psychology

**Carrie Ann Platt, Ph.D.,**

Communication

**Susan Ray-Degges, Ph.D.,**

Apparel, Design and Hospitality Management

**Molly Secor-Turner, Ph.D.,**

Nursing

**Kevin Thompson, Ph.D.,**

Criminal Justice and Political Science

**Rachelle Vetter, Ph.D.,**

Center for 4-H Youth Development