

Childhood and Adolescence Studies Certificate

About Us

This certificate program helps students understand the lives and unique perspectives of children and adolescents. Students learn about social scientific research and theories on children and adolescents, as well as how children are affected by society, culture, religion, politics, economics, health, and education. Students study the impact that race, class, gender, sexuality, and disability have on children. They also learn about the developmental and cognitive stages of childhood and adolescence.

UWM's Certificate in Childhood and Adolescence Studies is an academic, interdisciplinary program built around a core of liberal arts courses. The primary course offerings that comprise the C.A.S. certificate are in the social sciences, humanities, health sciences, social work, and education. These courses train students to understand children and adolescents from an academic and research perspective, examining both age groups as they relate to society and culture. Students leave the program with an understanding of the complexity of children and their social worlds, including their interactions with their peers, family, schools, and communities.

Is C.A.S. Right For Me?

The Childhood and Adolescence Studies Certificate is intended to enhance a bachelor's degree. This certificate program complements many majors, particularly disciplines such as sociology, psychology, social welfare, nursing, education, health sciences, and the arts. Students from all of these areas have declared their intent to complete the CAS Certificate, as have students who have already earned their degree.



Career Opportunities

Regardless of major, the certificate is ideal for students who enjoy working with children and adolescents and would like a career that involves working with children. Students completing the certificate better understand children and adolescents and the world around them. They are able to make more informed decisions when working in the community. These students often find careers in environments that feature day-to-day contact with children or policy decision-making, including athletics, health care, research institutes, schools, and social service agencies. For some students, the certificate is a foundation upon which to pursue a graduate education in a related field.

Certificate Requirements

In order to obtain the certificate, students must complete at least 18 credits from the approved course list with a minimum 2.5 GPA. Courses for the certificate may not be taken on a credit/no credit basis.

Certificate programs are similar to minors. They are comprised of 15 to 26 credits in a specialized subject matter, and include coursework from different departments. Certificates can be combined with a degree program, or they are available as stand-alone options for individuals who already hold a bachelor's degree from any accredited college or university. Many certificates also will enroll individuals with a strong interest in the topic area but who do not have a degree.

Students choose most of their courses from the approved course list; there are only two required courses that every student in the program must take:

- Psych 260 – Child Psychology (3 credits)
- Sociol 448 – Sociology of Children and Adolescents (3 credits)

Twelve of the 18 required credits must come from the College of Letters & Science, with at least six of these at the 300-level or above. Three credits must come from outside of Letters & Science, and no more than 9 credits can come from a single department. In addition to the 6 upper-level credits from Letters & Science, students must complete another 3 credits at the 300-level or above, either within the College of Letters & Science or from another school or college at UWM.

Approved Course List

The approved course list draws from a wide variety of topic areas including Africology, anthropology, English, psychology, sociology, criminal justice, communication sciences and disorders, educational psychology, education policy, exceptional education, curriculum and instruction, library sciences, nursing, health care administration, and social work.

See <http://www4.uwm.edu/letscli/cas/courses.cfm> for the full list of courses. A sampling includes:

- Africol 451 – Rites of Passage in Black Societies
- Anthro 446 – The Child in Different Cultures
- English/FilmStd 212 – Intermediate Topics in Film Studies: “Teens on TV”
- CrmJst 671 – Juvenile Justice
- CurrIns 651 – Literature for the Young Child
- Ed Pol 581 – Youth Work Practice
- Ed Psy 330 – Introduction to Learning and Development
- HCA 203 – Human Life Cycle
- L&ISci 645 – Library Materials for Children
- Nurs 203 – Human Growth and Development Across the Life Span
- Psych 205 – Personality
- Soc Wrk 250 – Human Behavior and the Social Environment
- Sociol 246 – Juvenile Delinquency

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