

Recommendations for Undergraduates with Interests in Developmental Psychology

Developmental Psychology is the study of what social, cognitive, and physical changes occur from conception through a person's lifetime, and also investigates how and why those changes occur. Developmental researchers at UNLV study infants, children, adolescents, and young adults, and also use animal models to study development.

1. Take Upper Level Developmental Courses

PSY 330 – Foundations of Developmental Psychology: Infant & Child

PSY 334 – Foundations of Developmental Psychology: Adolescence & Adulthood

PSY 432 – Language Development

PSY 495 – Developmental Seminars

PSY 499 – Developmental Special Topics

Developmental Capstone course

Consider completing an honor's thesis project related to development

2. Participate In A Developmental Research Lab For At Least Two Semesters

Course credit – PSY 496 (Independent Research) or PSY 498 (Independent Study)

Volunteer

Try to present at professional conferences or events on campus

Possible developmental mentors – Dr. Erin Hannon, Dr. Laurel Pritchard, Dr. Jennifer Rennels, Dr. Rachael Robnett or one of their graduate students

3. Other Recommendations

Get involved in Psi Chi, the national honor society for psychology students.

If eligible, join the Psychology Department's Outreach Undergraduate Mentoring Program (OUMP).

Prepare for and take the GRE.

Talk with developmental faculty mentors about career options, choosing graduate schools/mentors, and preparing your graduate application (e.g., personal statement and requesting letters of recommendation).

Volunteer at child-centered institutions (e.g., child care, Boys & Girls Club)