Courses for Developmental Science Students

In addition to courses required by the Department (PSYCO 502, 531, 532), the following courses are recommended for graduate students in Developmental Science:

PSYCO 521 Developmental Concepts and Theories
PSYCO 522 Developmental Methods: Designs and Data
PSYCO 523 Developmental Methods: Statistical Applications
PSYCO 622 Topics in Developmental Science

PSYCO 521 is typically offered every other year, and covers basic history, theory, and concepts in lifespan developmental science. PSYCO 522 and PSYCO 523 are typically offered as a sequence. PSYCO 522 covers basic and advanced design and methodological issues in conducting and interpreting research on intraindividual change and variability in any phase of the lifespan. PSYCO 523 covers applications and strategies to model individual differences in change over time, and provides students with a practical understanding of the analysis of longitudinal data.

PSYCO 622 content varies, from specialized topics in developmental methods to advanced issues in developmental application. PSYCO 622 is offered on an occasional basis. Developmental Science students should take advantage of PSYCO 622 offerings and are encouraged to help faculty members identify topics that could be covered in future courses. Another option is PSYCO 505 (Conference Course in Psychology), which is focused occasionally on a developmental issue (e.g., Aging and Alzheimer's Disease).

Developmental scientists are expected to achieve a strong background in advanced statistics and data analysis, preparation that contributes to the quality of developmental research and enhances the competitiveness of students as they pursue job options. Our students have recommended the following courses offered outside of the Department of Psychology:

SOC 616 Structural Equation Modeling with LISREL
EDPY 605 Multivariate Statistical Methods in Education Research
EDPY 507 Test Theory
EDPY 508 Item Response Theory

The Centre for Research in Applied Measurement and Evaluation (CRAME), based in the Department of Educational Psychology, also offers relevant courses on a rotating basis (e.g., factor analysis).

Finally, given that the study of human development and developmental processes is naturally multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary, Developmental Science students should consider taking relevant courses in complementary areas of psychology and in other departments.

The array of available and relevant course offerings makes it easy to fulfill departmental requirements for one course in the student's focal domain of knowledge and two courses in related areas. With careful planning, courses beyond these minimal requirements will provide Developmental Science students with a strong background that will enhance their careers.

Recommendations adopted by the Developmental Science faculty, August 2011.