

**Center for Psychological Studies
Nova Southeastern University**

CHILD, ADOLESCENT & FAMILY PSYCHOLOGY TRACK

Overview

The Child, Adolescent & Family Psychology (CAFP) track addresses the assessment and treatment of youth and their families, with a particular focus on empirically-supported assessment and treatment methods. The area focuses on children and adolescents experiencing stressful circumstances or significant mental health problems and their families. In addition, the area is concerned with efforts to prevent and treat child mental health problems and promote healthy child and family development. Students interested in completing the track should declare their interest with Academic Affairs and complete all track requirements. These requirements include child-focused practicum experiences, research experiences, and/or service learning experiences; a Directed Study (Psy.D. students) or Dissertation (Ph.D. students) on a topic relevant to children, adolescents and families; and 12 hours of elective coursework focused on children, adolescents and families.

Prospects for Practice

Historically, clinical psychology programs have provided specialized training for professionals interested in working with children and families. In recent years, there has been increasing demand for child and adolescent mental health professionals who are capable of working with children in diverse settings. Particularly vital is the training of practitioners who are capable of developing and evaluating interventions that are effective in a variety of settings. With the diverse training afforded them in the College of Psychology, graduates will be capable of assuming positions of leadership in diverse settings ranging from clinical settings to academic research settings.

NSU Resources

COP's faculty specialty programs, its diverse faculty, and its multidisciplinary staff all provide solid resources for training students in child and adolescent mental health. CAFP Track Faculty includes Drs. Ryan Bennett, David Feldman, Diana Formoso, Christopher Layne, Barbara Garcia-Lavin, Emily Georgia, Donna Hillier, David Reitman, Lourdes Suarez-Morales, and Jessica Valenzuela. Other faculty, including School Psychology faculty, Drs. Ralph Cash, Peter Caproni, Maritza Gallardo-Cooper, Iryna Kasi, Sott Poland, Nurit Sheinberg, Sarah Valley-Gray, and Angela Waguespack, and Clinical Faculty, Drs. Nicole Jimenez, Shannon Worton, and Yukari Tomozawa may be involved in supervising research and clinical work in the CAFP track as dictated by their availability and interests.

Track Curriculum Requirements

Students wishing to specialize in CAFP will complete all existing core requirements, including required courses focused on children, adolescents and families. In addition, students will complete 12 hours (4 courses) of elective coursework in areas related to working with youth and their families. Students also will participate in pre-practicum, research, and clinical practica in the area of children and families and be mentored by core faculty.

Examples of relevant coursework include:

	Psy	4515	Child and Adolescent Neuropsychological Assessment
CxL	Psy	4691	Infant & Toddler Mental Health (aka Early Childhood Mental Health)
	Psy	4692	Parent Focused Intervention
	Psy	4409	Pediatric Psychology
	Psy	4603	Play Therapy
	Psy	3606	System/Family Therapy II
	Psy	4442	Evidence-Based Treatment of Emotional & Behavioral Disorders in Children and Adolescents
	Psy	4650	Crisis Intervention

Additional courses are being considered for the future and include Child and Adolescent Assessment, Applied Behavioral Assessment, Child Sexual Abuse Assessment, and Children and Families Experiencing Adversity or Transitions, among others.

Courses are updated on a regular basis, and vary from year to year, so this list is not exhaustive and not all courses are offered annually. Please contact the Office of Academic Affairs if you have questions about whether a course counts toward the CAFP Track and to inquire about availability.

In addition to coursework, the track requires a year-long practicum experience focusing on children and families and could involve working with children with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, conduct disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, developmental disabilities, depression or anxiety problems, or those experiencing stressful circumstances or difficult transitions (e.g., family disruption, chronic illness, abuse/neglect, immigration). Students are also strongly encouraged to engage in child-focused research and clinical service projects at the University or in community settings. Finally, Directed Study (Psy.D.) and Research Practica, Major Paper, and Dissertation (Ph.D.) projects must be completed on a topic relevant to children and families with track or non-track faculty members.

Participation in the Track

There are no formal admission criteria. Students may complete the track simply by completing the requirements listed above. However, please note that child/adolescent and family oriented practica and research opportunities are limited, and that not every elective course is offered every year. Each year, Academic Affairs and Clinical Training will provide an estimate of how many new students could likely be accommodated in courses and supervision, and we will ask students to declare their interest in participating in the track.

Students interested in completing the Child, Adolescent and Family Psychology Track should contact Dr. Suarez-Morales (lsuarezmorales@nova.edu) for more information and declare their interest with Academic Affairs.