



## PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT DEVELOPMENTAL SPECIALIZATION

### OVERVIEW

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In the Developmental Specialization, students will consider how development across the lifespan (from infancy through aging) is influenced by social relationships, cultural contexts, and individual differences (e.g., temperament). Students will choose among seminars that specialize in a developmental stage (e.g., adolescence), on a type of development (e.g., identity), on a developmental influence (e.g., the media), or on psychopathology (e.g., attention deficits). Research (laboratory and field) and internship opportunities will ask students to apply, in real-world settings, the theories and facts learned in the classroom. This specialization will prepare students for graduate work and/or careers related to normative development in infancy, childhood, adolescence, and all phases of adulthood.

For more information about this specialization, contact the Developmental Psychology Coordinator (Dr. James Graham, [jgraham@tcnj.edu](mailto:jgraham@tcnj.edu)).

### COURSEWORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENTAL SPECIALIZATION

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*Methods Sequence:* PSY 101 – General Psychology  
PSY 121 – Methods & Tools  
PSY 203 – Design & Statistical Analysis  
PSY 390 – Collaborative Research

(PSY 299 - Research Seminar - Any research seminar (PSY 299) fulfills this requirement, although we recommend a seminar in Counseling and Clinical Psychology. Only applies to students that entered the College prior to Fall 2025.)

*Foundation Courses:* PSY 220 — Development across the Lifespan (or equivalent - ECE 201, ELE 201, SPE 203 or NUR 110) with a minimum grade of C+  
Other Foundation Courses (Choose 2)

*Specialized Courses:* Choose 2 from the following:  
PSY 320 – Origins of Social Cognition  
PSY 321 – Children's Social and Personality Development  
PSY 322 – Children and the Media

PSY 323 – School Psychology  
PSY 370 – Developmental Seminar [may take more than once]  
Subtopics include: Racial and Ethnic Identity Development,  
Peer Relationships, Child Therapy, Child Development,  
Adolescent Development

Choose one additional Specialized (300 level) Course:

One of the following courses can count towards this requirement *if it has a Developmental focus*:

PSY 393 – Independent Research  
PSY 395 – Advanced Collaborative Learning  
PSY 394 – Psychology Thesis I  
PSY 397 – Learning Assistantship  
PSY 399 – Internship

*Psychology Option:* Students select 1 course; recommended at 300 or 400 level.

\*\*Students entering the College beginning in Fall 2025 will not have the Psychology Option/Elective requirement.

*Senior Experience:* Students must select 1 senior experience from a list of approved courses including:

PSY 470 – Senior Topics Study Group  
PSY 496 – Senior Honors Thesis II  
PSY 492 – Senior Collaborative Research  
PSY 493 – Senior Independent Research  
PSY 494 – Psychology Thesis II  
PSY 499 – Senior Internship

## **FACULTY AFFILIATED with the DEVELOPMENTAL SPECIALIZATION**

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**Dr. James Graham** (Office: SSB 122; Phone: 609.771.2638; E-mail: [jgraham@tcnj.edu](mailto:jgraham@tcnj.edu))

*Courses:* Development Across the Lifespan; Research Seminar (Child Development); Developmental Seminar (Children's Peer Relationships & Friendships; Children and the Media; Social and Personality Development); Senior Topics (Cross-Cultural Child Development)

*Research Interests:* Empathy and prosocial behavior in peer relationships; School/Community-based research partnerships; Program evaluation

*Lab:* [Social-Emotional Learning and Development Lab](#)

**Dr. Adaurennaya C. Onyewuenyi** (Office: SSB 115; Phone: 609.771.2430; E-mail: [onyewuea@tcnj.edu](mailto:onyewuea@tcnj.edu))

*Courses:* Methods and Tools; Development Across the Lifespan; Developmental Seminar (Racial and Ethnic Identity Development)

*Research Interests:* Adolescents; Racial & Ethnic Identity Development; Immigration; Intersectionality; African Diaspora; Black Education; Peer Relations; Discrimination; Academic Achievement; Mixed Methods Research

*Lab:* Identity Development across the African Diaspora (IDAD) Lab

**Dr. Aimee Stahl** (Office: SSB 112; Phone: 609.771.2702; E-mail: [stahla@tcnj.edu](mailto:stahla@tcnj.edu))

*Courses:* Methods and Tools; Development Across the Lifespan; Developmental Seminar (Origins of Social Cognition)

*Research Interests:* Cognitive development; Learning and memory in infants and children; Social cognition

*Lab:* [Cognitive Development Lab](#)

**Dr. Tamra Bireta** (Office: SSB 108; Phone: 609.771.3069; E-mail: [tbireta@tcnj.edu](mailto:tbireta@tcnj.edu))

*Courses:* Cognitive Psychology; Methods and Tools, Laboratory Learning, Memory Over the Lifespan, Sensation and Perception; Research Seminar

*Research Interests:* Memorability of different types of information with a focus on age-related differences in patterns of memory performance.

*Lab:* [Memory and Aging Lab](#)

**Dr. He Len Chung** (Office: SSB 114; Phone: 609.771.2646; E-mail: [chung@tcnj.edu](mailto:chung@tcnj.edu))

*Courses:* Methods & Tools of Psychology; Psychological Disorders (*formerly* Abnormal Psychology); Research Seminar; Field Experience Seminar; Poverty, Mental Health & Well-Being; Collaborative Research; Internships

*Research Interests:* Positive youth development; risk and resilience; community-based research; campus-community partnerships

*Lab:* [REACH \(Research on Engagement, Adjustment, and Community Health\) Lab](#)

**Dr. Jeanine Vivona** (Office: SSB 120; Phone: 609.771.2634; E-mail: [jvivona@tcnj.edu](mailto:jvivona@tcnj.edu))

<i>Courses:</i>	Psychological Disorders ( <i>formerly</i> Abnormal Psychology); Research Seminar; Clinical Psychology; Developmental Psychopathology; Counseling and Clinical Field Experience Seminar; Collaborative Research; Senior Topics Study Group; Internships
<i>Research Interests:</i>	Language and the psychotherapeutic process; early language development; identity
<i>Lab:</i>	Psychodynamic Lab

## RECENT STUDENT-FACULTY COLLABORATIONS and INTERNSHIPS

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- Service-learning: Implications for empathy and community engagement in elementary school children
- The effect of a peer-based personal stories intervention on focus of anxiety and social distance towards people with mental illness
- Language acquisition in infants
- African American immigrants and education
- Implementing an anti-bullying curriculum in primary- and secondary-schools
- Racial discrimination and grades
- Relationships between attention and imaginative play
- Emotional regulation and meaning making processing in sexually abused youth
- Content and frequency of children's worry
- Internship: Celebrate the Children (school for special-needs children)
- Internship: Office of the Child Advocate
- Internship: School Psychology
- Internship: Intelligence Analyst

## DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY CAREERS

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- School Counselor
- Research Position
- Infant Stimulation Programmer
- Education/Recreational Programmer
- Hospital/Hospice Facilitator