

## ESHR: Cognition, Learning, and Development Informal Concentration Area (ICA)

Understanding how children and adolescents learn and develop can help change lives and is valuable in many settings and a variety of careers. Courses in the *Cognition, Learning, and Development ICA* will help you understand the process of learning and helping and how to engage with different populations in their development of knowledge, skills, and abilities.

The *Learning and Development ICA* pairs well with all other ICAs but best supports the content in *Diversity Education; Learning, Design, and Media; Experiential Informal Learning*, and *Trauma-Informed Advocacy*, and *Couple and Family*.

### Major, Minor, and Certificate Suggestions

#### **Majors/Minors**

[Business Administration](#)  
[Health Studies](#)  
[International Relations](#)  
[Management](#)  
[Psychology](#)  
[Public Health](#)  
[Sociology](#)

#### **Certificates**

[Critical Cultural Competence](#)  
[Leadership Studies](#)  
[Nonprofit Leadership and Philanthropy](#)  
[Leadership](#)  
[Social Science Analytics](#)

With this focus in ESHR, students will be well-positioned for doctoral programs in Counselor Education, School Psychology, Learning Sciences, Educational Psychology, or Higher Education and Student Affairs.

Focusing on cognition, learning, and development in the ESHR program supports students in several career areas within education settings outside public schools, such as public health environments, private educational settings, or nonprofit leadership. It may also lead to non-teaching careers that include helping people learn such as leadership programs, academic administration, instructional design for corporate training, or curriculum and textbook development for educational publishing.

### Course suggestions

(Students are encouraged to take one or two courses from each skill/content area.)

#### *Understanding Learning and Cognition*

##### PSQF:2115 Introduction to Counseling Psychology

Historical and philosophical foundations of counseling psychology; theories, application, and work of counseling psychologists. GE: Social Sciences.

##### PSQF:4204 Introduction to the Learning Sciences

Foundations of interdisciplinary science of learning; theory and method of study of cognition in sociocultural context; design-based approaches to research on learning; history of several key concepts traced to determine origins; how contemporary literature is situated in this intellectual history.

##### PSQF:4281 Cognitive Principles for How People Learn

We use the word learning to refer to a diversity of experiences. What ideas from cognitive science might help us unify diverse experiences such as learning to tell time or tie your shoes with experiences such as the disciplinary learning undergraduates must develop in college courses? By enrolling in this course, you will determine the nature of how cognition leads to learning.

#### *Developmental Characteristics*

##### EDTL:4900 Foundations of Special Education

Students with disabilities, gifted and talented; strategies for effective treatment, collaboration between regular and special education teachers; remediation of academic, behavioral, social problems.

**PSQF:2116 Applied Child and Adolescent Psychology**

Overview of child and adolescent development, psychopathology, and basic-level intervention; foundation for working in applied child and adolescent mental health settings; typical areas of psychological difficulty, including developmental disorders, ADHD, depression, anxiety, substance use; contextual and environmental factors, including abuse, poverty, neglect.

**PSQF:4106 Child Development**

Theories and research findings about typical course of child development, differences in development. Requirements: junior standing.

**PSQF:4133 The Adolescent and Young Adult**

Psychological and social aspects of adolescence and young adulthood; emphasis on theory, research, and practical applications.

*Educational Research & Methods*

**PSQF:4143 Introduction to Statistical Methods**

Analysis, interpretation of research data; descriptive statistics; introduction to probability, sampling theory, statistical inference (binomial, normal distribution, t-distribution models); linear correlation, regression.

*Leadership Skills*

**CSED:4111 Building Leadership and Success at Work**

Learn and apply leadership skills and behaviors to meet and exceed employer expectations; develop skills to evaluate and match interests with company leadership styles; effectively use leadership behaviors to influence, communicate, motivate, work in teams, and manage conflict; gain an understanding of self-identity and how it is used in order to pull all of these skills and behaviors together to create an individualized leadership plan for use in career and personal life.

**CSED:4140 Foundations of Leadership for Community Agencies**

Preparation to become effective employees and leaders; emphasis on leadership roles in clinical and other human service or health care settings; how leadership transcends job title associated with high work performance; experiential activities that illustrate key didactic concepts and didactic lecture review, written assignments, experiential assignment, in-depth discussions illustrating key concepts.

**Faculty Liaison**

[Stacey McElroy-Heltzel](#), Assistant Professor, Counseling Psychology

Last updated: 11/01/2024