FlexPath Option
Master of Science (MS) in Psychology
with a specialization in
Child and Adolescent Development

Effective January 8, 2018
The master’s Child and Adolescent Development specialization provides learners with the knowledge, theory, and best practices needed to promote and support the growth and development of children and adolescents. Specialization topics include prenatal, child, and adolescent development; physical and mental health; and social and educational issues related to child and adolescent development. Upon successful completion of this specialization, learners are prepared to pursue careers in education, human services, health care, social services, or other settings in which knowledge of child and adolescent development would be an asset or job prerequisite. Learners who pursue this specialization through the FlexPath option earn an MS in Psychology through self-paced demonstrations of competencies. The requirements for this specialization are not designed to prepare graduates for licensure as professional counselors or psychologists.

FlexPath Option

Master of Science (MS) in Psychology with a specialization in Child and Adolescent Development

Capella University is one of the first institutions to measure student learning through a direct assessment approach, eliminating the credit hour requirement and focusing on demonstrating specific competencies expected for the degree and needed for success in the workplace.

With FlexPath, you’ll build career-enhancing skills that employers and industry experts seek, but in a more efficient, personalized way.

FlexPath is designed to support you in developing and demonstrating the same competencies as Capella’s traditional online courses.

This guide is intended to provide an overview of the specialization and is subject to change. Your enrollment counselor can provide updates, details, and Capella’s official University Catalog that specifies your program requirements.
## Career Information

### RELATED EMPLOYMENT SETTINGS TO EXPLORE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community college</th>
<th>Social service agency</th>
<th>Residential care facility</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P–12 public/private school</td>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>Government—local, state, federal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land-based or online college or university</td>
<td>Law enforcement</td>
<td>Market research firm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community counseling center</td>
<td>Nonprofit organization</td>
<td>Human resources department</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RELATED JOB TITLES TO EXPLORE*

| Case manager | Employee assistance program specialist | Mental health worker |
| Supervised visitation coordinator | Employment specialist | Program coordinator |
| Victim’s advocate | Instructor | Social services worker |
| Child protective services specialist | Behavioral health specialist | Academic advisor |
| Clinical specialist | Adjunct or part-time faculty | Care coordinator |
|                           | Intake counselor | Child care specialist |

### SPECIALIZATION OUTCOMES

- Determine the scientific merit of the professional literature
- Apply theoretical and research findings from the discipline of psychology to professional and academic activities
- Apply ethical principles and standards of psychology to academic and professional activities
- Embrace, respect, and respond to individual differences and diversity in the practice of psychology
- Communicate psychological concepts effectively using the professional standards of the discipline

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* These are examples intended to serve as a general guide. Because many factors determine what position an individual may attain, Capella cannot guarantee that a graduate will secure any specific job title.

† Job title qualifications vary by state and licensure and/or other designations may be required. We encourage you to research requirements for your job and career goals.
## Curriculum

- 11 required courses
- Total program points: 27.5 program points

### REQUIRED COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Program Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSY-FP5002</td>
<td>Foundations of Theory and Practice for Master's Psychology Learners</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY-FP7610</td>
<td>Tests and Measurements</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY-FP7860</td>
<td>Survey of Research Methods</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY-FP7864</td>
<td>Quantitative Design and Analysis</td>
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### SPECIALIZATION COURSES

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<td>Human Prenatal Development</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY-FP6020*</td>
<td>Topics in Child and Adolescent Development</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY-FP7210</td>
<td>Lifespan Development</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY-FP7220</td>
<td>Child Psychology</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY-FP7230</td>
<td>Adolescent Psychology</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY-FP7543*</td>
<td>Ethics and Multicultural Issues in Psychology</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Denotes courses that have prerequisite(s). Refer to the course descriptions for further details.

### Transfer Credit

A maximum of 15 quarter credits from previous graduate coursework may be transferred and applied to your program's requirements.

### Admission Requirements

- Bachelor’s degree from an institution accredited by a U.S. Department of Education-recognized accrediting agency or an internationally recognized institution

- Grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale

You’ll complete a required orientation that helps you understand the course format and expectations before you begin your program.

Assessments are designed by a team of subject-matter-expert faculty, assessment specialists, and instructional designers who help clearly measure competencies as they apply to the workplace.

The courses in this program may require live web conferencing activities and/or learner audio/video recordings. Learners who require assistive technology or alternative communication methods to participate in these activities should contact Disability Services to request accommodations.
Required Course Descriptions

**PSY-FP5002  Foundations of Theory and Practice for Master’s Psychology Learners**  
2.5 PROGRAM POINTS

In this course, learners acquire the ability to navigate the Capella courseroom and use the resources that support academic success, including the library and writing center. Learners identify and practice the academic requirements (including APA style and formatting) necessary to successfully complete the master's degree program in their chosen specialization; review their specialization's requirements, associated professional roles and organizations, and ethics and professional standards; and articulate a professional identity based on master's-level psychology training. **For MS in Psychology learners only. Must be taken during the learner’s first quarter. Cannot be fulfilled by transfer.**

**PSY-FP7610  Tests and Measurements**  
2.5 PROGRAM POINTS

This course is an introduction to the subject of mental measurement in psychology. Course topics include techniques for correctly interpreting test scores such as percentiles, standard errors of measurement, standard scores, and validity and reliability. Learners acquire and demonstrate knowledge of measuring devices used in the fields of intelligence, interests, personality, and special aptitudes, and identify professional standards of test development and use. The course also includes analysis of the psychometric procedures used to develop and validate educational and psychological instruments and requires learners to present appropriate applications for each type of methodology.

**PSY-FP7860  Survey of Research Methods**  
2.5 PROGRAM POINTS

Learners in this course critically evaluate research in order to gain an understanding of the scientific methods of inquiry and the ethical considerations of research. Learners focus on becoming educated consumers and creators of research. Learners also use their research design skills to analyze and apply research methodologies, validity, reliability and other components of scientific research related to their field of interest. **Cannot be fulfilled by transfer.**

**PSY-FP7864  Quantitative Design and Analysis**  
2.5 PROGRAM POINTS

In this course, learners investigate the fundamental concepts needed to conduct quantitative research. Learners examine and apply quantitative research techniques; appropriate applications of quantitative research; research design, measurement, and analysis, and their associated interdependencies; variable types and levels of measurement; sampling; descriptive and inferential statistics; and hypothesis testing. Learners define the strengths and limitations of descriptive statistics, analyze the quantitative scales of measurement, review the logic of probability and null hypothesis testing, and leverage technology when applicable. Learners also determine the steps necessary to ensure human subjects protection, and consider methodological adaptations when conducting research with vulnerable and diverse populations. **Cannot be fulfilled by transfer.**

Specialization Course Descriptions

**PSY-FP6010  Human Prenatal Development**  
2.5 PROGRAM POINTS

This course provides learners with an overview of prenatal and postnatal development through the first three months of life. Learners analyze genetic and reproductive technology and articulate its impact on families and society. Learners review and demonstrate their knowledge of the stages of prenatal development (embryonic and fetal), focusing specifically on brain development and fetal life. In addition, learners examine various prenatal illnesses and physical problems resulting from birth complications. The course presents research, theory, and best practices related to promoting healthy newborn and infant development.
PSY-FP6020  Topics in Child and Adolescent Development  
Learners in this course critically evaluate and apply theory and research to child and adolescent development issues and current topics. Learners analyze the impact of policy and legislation in areas such as education, health, mental health, the military, media, and the economy on child and adolescent developmental outcomes and advocate for issues related to policy and legislation that improve the lives of children and adolescents. Prerequisite(s): PSY-FP6010; PSY-FP7220 or PSY-FP7230.

PSY-FP7210  Lifespan Development  
In this course, learners gain and apply knowledge of lifespan development from infancy through adulthood, including human development processes and milestones. Learners evaluate theories and approaches for examining human development and analyze human development processes related to their specialization.

PSY-FP7220  Child Psychology  
In this course, learners gain and apply knowledge of the developmental stages of children from the prenatal period to adolescence. Learners examine how children develop physically, emotionally, socially, and intellectually, and evaluate and articulate the influences of family, society, and culture on child and adolescent development. Learners also assess children’s evolving needs and apply theory and research to recommend appropriate responses to those needs.

PSY-FP7230  Adolescent Psychology  
In this course, learners gain and apply knowledge of the developmental stages from early adolescence to emerging adulthood. Learners evaluate and articulate the physical, psychosocial, emotional, sexual, moral, and cognitive changes associated with adolescent development and examine the ways in which adolescent development is influenced by family, society, and culture. Learners also assess the evolving needs of adolescents and apply theory and research in order to recommend appropriate responses to those needs.

PSY-FP7543  Ethics and Multicultural Issues in Psychology  
In this course, learners analyze multicultural perspectives and factors such as ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and gender, and their influences on the ethical behavior of psychology professionals. Learners evaluate and articulate multicultural issues within the context of different settings and practice applying ethical reasoning principles and standards within their profession. Prerequisite(s): PSY-FP5002.

PSY-FP5201  Integrative Project for Master’s Degree in Psychology  
In this course, learners demonstrate knowledge, scholarship, and research proficiency in their chosen psychology specialization. As they engage with a faculty mentor in the preparation of a five-chapter integrative project, learners develop and demonstrate academic and professional competency in proposing new and original research, writing and applying for grants, adhering to ethical standards, addressing diversity and individual variation in psychology, and explaining psychology concepts. For MS in Psychology learners only. Must be taken during the learner’s final quarter. Prerequisite(s): All required and elective coursework. Cannot be fulfilled by transfer.
Course Sequence

FlexPath courses are designed to be completely self-paced and can take from one week to a full academic session to complete. Complete your assessments on your own schedule within the session, moving quickly when you can or more slowly as needed, without preset due dates for your coursework. There is no limit on the number of courses that can be taken within a session, but no more than two courses may be taken concurrently.

Tuition

This tuition rate is effective July 10, 2017, and is subject to change. For current pricing, visit the Capella University website at www.capella.edu.

| Tuition per 12-week session | $2,500 |

Financial Aid

Capella University offers assistance to learners who qualify and would like to secure educational funding to help finance their academic program. A number of options are available, given the diverse needs and backgrounds of prospective learners. Options include:

- Federal Direct Stafford Loan Program
- Federal Direct PLUS Loan Program
- Non-federal loans through preferred lenders and financial institutions
- External scholarships
- Veterans’ and U.S. armed forces discounts
- Corporate and higher education alliances
- Employer tuition reimbursement

Regarding loan programs, interest rates for Stafford student loans are low compared to other types of consumer loans, and repayment can be deferred until after graduation. In compliance with federal and state laws, Capella University has established policies for all learners regarding satisfactory academic progress, which is necessary for financial aid eligibility.
Academic Leadership

Andrea Miller, PhD
Dean

Andrea Miller is the dean of the Harold Abel School of Psychology at Capella University. Dr. Miller has worked as a member of the Capella undergraduate psychology department since 2010 and has taught online since 2005. Her professional background includes work as a psychologist in the public schools and as a psychologist and supervisor for non-profit clinics. She specializes in working with children and families as well as individuals of all ages with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Dr. Miller is licensed as a psychologist in three states, licensed as a specialist in school psychology, and a human services board certified practitioner. She is active in psychological associations and served as President of the Georgia Psychological Association from 2013–2014. Dr. Miller holds a PhD in Counseling Psychology from Texas Woman’s University and a BA in Psychology from the University of Michigan.
Move Forward with Capella University

WORKING SCHOLARS
Capella provides an online, flexible learning environment for working adults who are also determined scholars. That connection between academic and professional work infuses the entire Capella experience—from the faculty we recruit to the course projects you complete. The theories discussed in the courseroom are designed to develop working knowledge for everyday situations.

AN ACCREDITED UNIVERSITY
Our accreditation* is an assurance to students, employers, and the public that Capella University meets established standards for quality of faculty, curriculum, and learner services. It is also an important factor in the ability to transfer credits among higher education institutions. Regional accreditation, the type held by Capella, is the most common type for major public, state, and private institutions in the United States.

VALUING YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE
Adults bring a wealth of experience and learning to their education. Capella courses are designed to bring out your perspectives just as you gain from others’ ideas. Your knowledge can also be worth time and money: An enrollment counselor can help you estimate how much of your prior learning may apply toward your Capella degree program.

*ACCREDITATION
Capella University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION
https://www.hlcommission.org
800.621.7440

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Important Information about the educational debt, earnings, and completion rates of students who attended this program: http://capellaresults.com/assets/includes/gainfulemployment/cta/GE/GE15/FlexPath/MS_Psych_FP_Child_Adolescent_gedt.html.