

Children & Society strand descriptions

Adolescence:

Students in the Adolescence strand focus on issues that affect children ages 12-17. Topic areas include developmental markers, risk behaviors, physiological health, education, and media influence. Examples of Connecting Experiences in this strand include:

- Research on physical attractiveness and self-perception
- Case study research on parenting adolescents
- Research in the Gender and Racial Attitudes Lab
- Internship at LifeWorks
- Internship at Camp Fire USA Balcones Council

Children & the Family:

The Children & the Family strand addresses the familial structure and conditions that can affect a child's upbringing and development. Students in this strand explore issues such as relationships, family communication, and child welfare, as well as the effects of race and socioeconomic status. Past Connecting Experiences include:

- Research on the effects of divorce on children and families
- Research on parental socialization of emotion in children
- Creation of a resource directory guide for low income families
- Internship at the Center for Child Protection
- Internship at the Austin Child Guidance Center

Children & Health:

Students in this strand explore children's health from the perspectives of their physiological, developmental, environmental, and social well-being. More specifically, students can study nutrition, learning development, ability versus disability, and health through the lifespan with a special emphasis on children. Examples of previous Connecting Experiences include:

- Research on emotional development in children
- Research on schizophrenia in adolescents
- Research on children's physical activity
- Internship at Dell Children's Medical Center
- Internship at UT Children's Wellness Center

Children & Public Policy:

The Children & Public Policy strand examines societal constructs, legislation, and institutions that affect, and to a greater extent, protect children. Past Connecting Experiences include:

- Research on child-related legislation in the Texas House of Representatives Human Services Committee
- Internship at the Austin Area Urban League
- Internship at Texans Care for Children
- Internship at the Office of Family Initiatives in the Office of the Texas Attorney General

Early Childhood Intervention:

This strand is geared toward students interested in becoming an Early Childhood Intervention specialist. Many of the courses are prerequisites for state certification. Students in this strand will focus on children's social and cognitive development from ages 0-3. Examples of Connecting Experiences in this strand include:

- Research on the causes and treatment of autism
- Internship at Any Baby Can
- Internship at Homespun ECI

Education, Language & Literacy:

The Education, Language, and Literacy strand examines development as children move through educational systems, acquire language skills, and develop literacy. Students in this strand will be able to explore the impact of learning disabilities, educational and literacy issues affecting different racial and ethnic groups, and overall psychological and sociocultural factors affecting learning. Past Connecting Experiences include:

- Research on bilingual language assessment at the HABLA Lab
- Research on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
- Internship at College Forward
- Internship at Mt. Sinai Christian Academy through Americorps
- Internship at Community New Start

Children, Media & the Arts:

The Children, Media, and the Arts strand focuses on teaching and developing artistic expression in children. Music, literature, drama, and mass media influences on children are topic areas that students in this strand can explore.

Examples of Connecting Experiences in this strand include:

- Research on television's effects on children's development
- Research on music therapy for children with special needs
- Internship at the Austin Children's Museum
- Internship at the Cartoon Network
- Internships with youth media organizations

Intervention & Vulnerable Children:

Students in the Intervention & Vulnerable Children strand study proactive and intervention methods of at-risk populations, including children with disabilities and developmental delays, children who are socioeconomically disadvantaged, and children in public welfare systems. Examples of Connecting Experiences in this strand include:

- Research with The Autism Project
- Internship with Child Protective Services
- Internship with Austin Area Urban League