APPLIED DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

Bachelor of Science

Applied Developmental Psychology is a program that considers the processes and stages of human development to be the foundational discipline for professions which foster positive change, such as teaching and counseling. The major teaches skills, knowledge and critical thinking as it prepares students for graduate school and encourages personal growth.

Careers

Many students choose to go on to graduate school to become teachers, counselors, school psychologists and guidance professionals. There are many job openings for BS level graduates, though not usually as psychologists.

Program courses can prepare you for a job as a behavior analyst, case worker, probation worker, counselor aid, child protection worker, day care supervisor or as an employment advisor.

Though not required, a minor can open many opportunities. For example, a minor in chemical dependency can lead to professional status and a career as an addiction therapist or as a youth counselor in a residential treatment center. A business minor can lead to a trainee position in management, sales, customer relations, staff training and so on.

The field experience chosen in addition to a minor can lead to positions in newspaper reporting, fund raising, college recruiting, admissions and advising, affirmative action and community relations. All these options are suggestive and not exhaustive; many more careers use the skills taught in this program.

Knowledge and skills

In addition to knowledge about the processes and stages of human development across the life span, students will become critical consumers of research reports and other statistical information, skillful writers and creators of text, graphs and tables to communicate complex ideas.

Program graduates will recognize healthy and unhealthy functioning at different ages and will have people skills for communicating and relating effectively to clients, customers and students as well as practice in setting up behavioral programs that result in positive change. Also, they will know and use principles from their courses to understand conflict, generate helpful responses and bring about desired changes while respecting the dignity of the persons involved. Perhaps most important for graduates is the self-knowledge gained in studying human development which comprises a major step in the creation of wisdom.

Curriculum

The varied curriculum consists of 34 credit hours of required introductory courses followed by 16 to 19 credits of self-chosen electives. Students intending to apply to specific graduate programs should consult their advisor prior to elective selection. Eight credits of field experience and a capstone experience (course or thesis) complete the program. Again, no minor is required, but students can enhance their career-entry success with a well-chosen minor.
Special Features
The program implements the integration of theoretical knowledge with applied experience through a two-quarter field experience. Once students have completed the required courses, they spend approximately 11-12 hours a week for two quarters observing, shadowing and helping in a work setting related to their career objective. Students often report a refined idea of desired career direction following this experience. On occasion, this leads to job offers and most times to very positive letters of recommendation for future employment and graduate school.

Preparation for Admission
Students are encouraged to complete their math and writing general education requirements before entering the major.

For more information on the Applied Developmental Psychology Program visit the Department website: http://www.ewu.edu/cedp

Prospective students of EWU can apply online via http://www.ewu.edu/admissions or contact the Office of Admissions at 509.359.2397 to request an application.

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The University
Eastern Washington University is a student-centered, regionally based, comprehensive university. This vision informs and inspires EWU’s future. Its campus is located in Cheney within the Spokane metropolitan area, with additional learning centers in the region and elsewhere in Washington State.

Note:
Information in this guide is subject to change without notice. To learn more about the official program of study, please check the catalog online at:
http://www.ewu.edu/x15588.xml