

**Northwest Arkansas Community College**  
Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences

**Discipline Code**

PSYC

**Course Number**

2103

**Course Title**

Human Growth and Development

**Catalog Description**

Survey of human development ranging from conception through old age, with an emphasis on the physical, emotional, cognitive, moral, and social growth of human beings. This course includes study of developmental psychological theory and research methods.

Human Growth and Development is designed to provide students with an overview of the major physical, cognitive, emotional, and social issues relating to human development, focusing on how these issues develop and change across the life span. This course includes a review of the types of research methods used in the field of Developmental Psychology. Consideration is also given to cultural influences on human development.

Development periods covered include: Prenatal Development, Infancy and Toddlerhood, Early Childhood, Middle Childhood, Adolescence, Early Adulthood, Middle Adulthood, and Late Adulthood. This course also covers special issues related to Death and Dying.

**Prerequisites**

PSYC 2003 or consent of the instructor

**Credit hours**

3

**Contact hours**

3

**Load hours**

3

**Target Audience**

Human Growth and Development is a course designed to serve as an introduction to the field of developmental psychology. It is a lifespan course, covering relevant topics from conception until death. Human Growth and Development is a transferable course.

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

### Goal 1: Theory and Content of Developmental Psychology

- Recognize and evaluate major theories in Development Psychology
- Describe developmental trends in physical growth, emotional and social competence, and cognitive ability across the life span
- Articulate the impact of culture on human functioning

### Goal 2: Research Methods in Developmental Psychology

- Explain different research methods used by developmental psychologists, focusing on considerations specific to the field of developmental psychology (including the strengths and limitations of developmental research designs.
- Recognize the necessity for ethical guidelines in psychological research

### Goal 3: Critical Thinking

- Evaluate the quality of information, including differentiating empirical evidence from speculation and the probable from improbable
- Assess support for conclusions to determine how well reasons support conclusions

## **Topics**

Theory and research in Human Development

Biological and environmental influences on Human Development

Prenatal development, birth, and the newborn baby

Physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development during toddlerhood

Physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development during early childhood

Physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development during middle childhood

Physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development during adolescence

Physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development during early adulthood

Physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development during middle adulthood

Physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development during late adulthood

Death and dying