

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, MSED

The M.S.Ed. in Interdisciplinary Studies in Human Development (ISHD) program examines the social, emotional, cognitive, and physical aspects of human development within the context of culture and social policy. The ISHD master's program offers students the opportunity to create an individualized program of study that leads to an enriched understanding of the diverse perspectives of human development across the lifespan in one of the following career interests: traditional academic research, youth programming and services, urban and ethnic studies, adult development and learning, international programming (e.g., work with NGOs), foundation administration, and program development. The program is designed for pre-professional training and to prepare students to advance within their careers by gaining a better understanding of human development issues. The M.S.Ed. in ISHD also gives students a solid foundation for applying to doctoral programs in human development and related fields.

For more information: <https://www.gse.upenn.edu/academics/programs/interdisciplinary-studies-human-development-masters> (<https://www.gse.upenn.edu/academics/programs/interdisciplinary-studies-human-development-masters/>)

Curriculum

Code	Title	Course Units
Introductory (Required)		
EDUC 5560	Human Development	1
Current Research, Theory, Application (Required)		
EDUC 8560	ISHD Proseminar	1
Developmental Foundations ¹		
Select at least 3 of the following:		3
EDUC 5480	Education and International Development	
EDUC 5558	Developmental Theories: Applications with Young Adults	
EDUC 5561	Adolescent Development	
EDUC 5562	Personality & Social Development	
EDUC 5568	Cognitive Development	
EDUC 5571	Mindfulness for Emerging Adults	
EDUC 5580	Developmental Theories & Applications with Children	
EDUC 7509	Peer Relationships in Childhood and Adolescence	
EDUC 7564	Cognitive Processes (EDUC 5568 pre-req)	
EDUC 7539	Poverty and Child Development	
Social, Cultural & Policy Foundations		
Select one of the following:		1
EDUC 5522	Psychology of the African-American	
EDUC 5538	Stereotype Threat, Impostor Phenomenon, and African Americans	
EDUC 5573	Psychoeducational Interactions with Black Males	

EDUC 5581	Advanced Psychology of Women	
EDUC 6510	Cultural Perspectives on Human Development	
EDUC 6563	Sociocultural Foundations in Counseling	
EDUC 7531	Risk, Resilience, and Prevention Science	
Quantitative Methodology		
Select one of the following:		1
EDUC 6667	Introductory Statistics for Educational Research	
EDUC 7667	Regression and Analysis of Variance	
Another statistics course can be substituted with permission		
Qualitative Methodology		
Select one of the following:		1
EDUC 5570	Qualitative Studies of Developmental Interventions	
EDUC 7460	Qualitative Research: Concepts, Methods and Design	
EDUC 9580	Mixed Methods Research: Counseling & Development	
Electives		
Select 2 graduate level elective courses ²		2
Total Course Units		10

Applied Development and Counseling Skills Concentration:

ISHD MEd students may opt for a concentration in Applied Development and Counseling Skills.

Code	Title	Course Units
Concentration Requirements		
EDUC 5584	Basic Counseling Skills	1
Concentration Electives		
Select two of the following:		2
EDUC 6517	Counseling for School to Career Transitions	
EDUC 6563	Sociocultural Foundations in Counseling	
EDUC 6585	Career Counseling and Development	
EDUC 5571	Mindfulness for Emerging Adults	
EDUC 5580	Developmental Theories & Applications with Children	
EDUC 5558	Developmental Theories: Applications with Young Adults	
Total Course Units		3

Required Milestones

Comprehensive Examination (or Portfolio or Thesis)

Master's degree candidates must demonstrate thorough knowledge of the field of specialization by passing a comprehensive examination in their area of study. The examination/portfolio/thesis serves an educational and evaluative purpose through which students are expected to review and integrate what they have learned in their coursework and fieldwork. Comprehensive formats vary.

¹ Counseling Area of Concentration students are only required to take two of these courses.

² Counseling Area of Concentration students select two electives from the approved concentration course list.

The degree and major requirements displayed are intended as a guide for students entering in the Fall of 2025 and later. Students should consult with their academic program regarding final certifications and requirements for graduation.
