Child Language Doctoral Program

The doctoral program in Child Language offers a specialized degree in this interesting area of study. The program crosses traditional academic boundaries to give students the theoretical, empirical, and methodological competence necessary to study basic and applied issues in language acquisition. This multidisciplinary program is a cooperative endeavor of faculty members from the Departments of Applied Behavioral Science, Clinical Child Psychology, Linguistics, Molecular Biosciences, Psychology, and Speech-Language-Hearing: Sciences and Disorders. In addition, the Child Language Doctoral Program has faculty specializing in genetics of language and speech, and in quantitative methods.

Students study 4 areas:

1. Core theoretical and experimental work on language acquisition,
2. Relevant methods and theories in linguistics and psycholinguistics,
3. Theoretical perspectives on developmental psychology, and
4. The nature of disordered language development and methods and techniques for language intervention.

In addition, new areas of study are offered in genetics of language acquisition and impairments, as well as quantitative methods.

Each student is advised by a support committee of 3 faculty members. Enrollment in a proseminar in language acquisition is required of all students in addition to participation in research activities. Opportunities for individual research projects include the projects of participating faculty members and the research teams of the Schiefelbusch Institute for Life Span Studies, the Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic, and the clinical/research facilities of KU Medical Center.

Graduates are candidates for teaching and research positions, clinical positions providing service to communicatively disabled persons, and research work in business and governmental sectors.

Facility

We are a cross-disciplinary program and our faculty (https://cldp.ku.edu/faculty) is involved in research spanning many diverse fields of study. Our portfolios are dynamic and growing, so you will be directed to our most recent information.

Two internationally recognized scholars lead program activities: Mabel L. Rice (https://cldp.ku.edu/mabel-l-rice) is the Director and Lesa Hoffman (https://cldp.ku.edu/lesa-r-hoffman) is the Graduate Advisor.

Courses

CLDP 709. First Language Acquisition. 3 Hours.
Introduction to the study of language acquisition: the significant findings, the basic methodological procedures, and some of the more recent theoretical accounts. Not open to students who have taken LING 425. (Same as LING 709.) Prerequisite: LING 700 or equivalent course. LEC.

CLDP 739. First Language Acquisition II. 3 Hours.
A second semester course in child language which explores the acquisition of morphology, syntax and the ways in which morphology and syntax interact in linguistic theory and language development.
CLDP 948. Latent Trait Measurement and Structural Equation Models. 3 Hours.
Contemporary measurement theory and latent variable models for scale construction and evaluation, including confirmatory factor analysis, item response modeling, diagnostic classification models, and structural equation modeling. (Same as EPSY 906.) Prerequisite: EPSY 905 and instructor permission. LEC.

CLDP 964. Seminar in Child Language. 1-3 Hours.
A seminar that considers advanced research problems in investigations of child language and language impairment, diagnosis, longitudinal development, change over time, and causal factors. Paper is required. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. SEM.

CLDP 974. Research Practicum. 3 Hours.
Application of research methodology in a laboratory situation. Emphasis is on direct participation in designing and conducting a study related to child language acquisition or impairments, and analyzing outcomes. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. LAB.

CLDP 975. Directed Teaching: Child Language. 1-3 Hours.
Provides experiences in classroom and laboratory instruction under supervision of graduate faculty. Variable credit to reflect amount of instructional responsibility assumed. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. IND.

CLDP 982. Issues in Scientific Conduct. 3 Hours.
Lectures and discussion on issues in the conduct of a scientific career, with emphasis on practical topics of special importance in behavioral science. Topics will include the academic and scientific roles of behavioral scientists, establishing a research lab, communicating research findings, tenure processes, gender equity, ethical conduct, and good scientific citizenship. Discussions will highlight important case studies. (Same as PSYC 982 and SPLH 982.) LEC.

CLDP 998. Investigation and Conference. 1-8 Hours.
Directed research, experimentation, and/or quantitative analysis for Ph.D. students in topics related to child language acquisition, language impairment, diagnosis, causation, or treatment. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. LAB.

CLDP 999. Doctoral Dissertation. 1-12 Hours.
Doctoral Dissertation in topics related to child language acquisition, language impairment, diagnosis, causation, or treatment. Graded on a satisfactory progress/limited progress/no progress basis. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. THE.