

UMBC GRADUATE SCHOOL

PH.D. IN APPLIED DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

Program Description

The Applied Developmental Psychology Program reflects the intersection of developmental psychology and applied science by considering questions of developmental and societal significance within the context of individuals' everyday lives.

Students in the program will acquire knowledge and skills to conduct research and work to address the well-being of infants, children, and adolescents, particularly within underserved and under-represented groups and across cultural contexts.

Graduates have taken positions teaching and conducting research at universities, analyzing public policy, working in hospital settings, conducting evaluations of and designing interventions for infants, children, adolescents, and their families.

In consultation with their mentor, students enrolled in the program develop a program of course work, research and practicum experiences tailored to the demands of their specific career aspirations.

Students in the ADP program can elect to earn an M.A. in ADP en route to earning their Ph.D. in Applied Developmental Psychology.



Faculty Research Foci

Faculty conduct research in four areas with an emphasis on underserved, underrepresented, typically and atypically developing, and intersectional populations.

- **Early Development/Early Intervention**
- **Social Emotional Development**
- **Learning and Educational Development**
- **Contexts of Development (e.g., poverty, justice, culture, policy)**

Facilities and Special Resources

In addition to the department's laboratories for the study of development, the program draws upon rich research and applied training resources in the Baltimore-Washington corridor. These include: University of Maryland Medical School, Kennedy Krieger Institute, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and other federal and state

agencies as well as nonprofit organizations and think tanks.

Program Admission

Admission to the program is based on a review by the admissions committee of:

- The applicant's grade point average, which must be a minimum of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale;
- Performance in relevant courses of study;
- Evaluation by referees;
- Relevant research and practical experience;
- Identification of an area of research interest compatible with the research interests and competence of the program's faculty.

The deadline for applications is **December 1**. Individuals wishing to apply for admission should contact the Graduate Program Codirector (Dr. Susan Sonnenschein sonnensc@umbc.edu) for further information and potential ADP faculty mentors to discuss alignment of research interests.

Financial Assistance

Our students receive teaching or research assistantships (tuition, stipend, health benefits) for 5 years.



UMBC GRADUATE SCHOOL

ADP Faculty

- **BORRERO, JOHN C.**, Ph.D., BCBA-D, University of Florida; Behavior analysis, learning, parent-child interactions.
- **CENGER, MIRELA**, Ph.D., BCBA-D, City University of New York; Behavior analysis, language development, problem behavior.
- **CHEAH, CHARISSA**, Ph.D., University of Maryland, College Park; Individual, relational, and contextual contributors to the social, emotional, and health development of immigrant, ethnic, and religious minority families; Cross-cultural research.
- **FOUNTAIN, ERIKA N.** Ph.D., Georgetown University; Adolescent development and juvenile justice; Legal decision making, parent-engagement in the juvenile justice process; Public policy.
- **GODWIN, KARRIE E.**, Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon University; Development of attention, executive function, and the implications for learning.
- **SCHULTZ, DAVID**, Ph.D., (Graduate Program Codirector), University of Delaware; Prevention programs in infancy and early childhood; Social/emotional development and social cognition.
- **SONNENSCHIN, SUSAN**, Ph.D., (Graduate Program Codirector), Stony Brook University; Factors that promote the educational development of children from different sociocultural, SES, immigrant backgrounds.
- **SUN, SHUYAN**, Ph.D., University of Cincinnati; Quantitative research methods; Engaged learning in formal and informal environments.
- In addition to the ADP faculty, there are 33 full-time faculty members within the Psychology department. Many are affiliated with the Human Services Psychology doctoral program and offer courses in Community Psychology, Clinical Psychology, and Behavioral Medicine. Most of these courses, as well as selected courses offered in other departments on campus or at other University of Maryland sites, can be taken by ADP students.



For More Information

Visit: <https://psychology.umbc.edu/ph-d-in-applied-developmental-psychology/>

Contact:

Susan Sonnenschein
Graduate Program Codirector
410-455-2361
sonnensc@umbc.edu

UMBC
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, MD 21250
410-455-2537
<https://gradschool.umbc.edu/>