

# Welcome to Child Development

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## *DEPARTMENT of CHILD DEVELOPMENT* **California State University, Chico**

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Congratulations on your decision to declare Child Development as your Major. As you get started, here are a few things you should know.

### **1. Advising**

- This major has mandatory advising at several points in the semester; however you are strongly encouraged to make an advising appointment when you initially declare the major and each semester before enrolling in classes for the upcoming semester.
- Advising will assist you as you plan your coursework to align with your career goals. Advising topics include course substitutions, consideration of undergraduate minors, prerequisites for graduate and credential programs, coursework to include for specific professions, incorporating extracurricular programs such as athletics and studying abroad, and how to best use depth core requirements.
- Students are ultimately responsible for their own progress toward graduation. You are encouraged to become familiar with and frequently check your Degree Progress Report (DPR), available through your portal. The DPR tracks your progress toward graduation and indicates which requirements are completed, in progress, or not yet met. Questions about the DPR can be addressed in an advising appointment.
- Advising appointments can be made by calling the Child Development office, 530 898-5250, or by stopping by Modoc 216, M-F, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Regular advising notes will be sent to those students who have declared the major.
- Chico State utilizes a dual advising model. This office provides advising for your child development major while the Academic Advising office offers advising for both lower and upper division General Education requirements. Academic Advising provides both scheduled appointments and drop in hours. More information can be found at <http://www.csuchico.edu/aap> . This office is located in the Student Services Center, Room 220, or at 530 898-5712.
- For issues related to the Upper Division Pathway courses, contact the Upper Division Pathway Coordinator for your selected Pathway. That information can be found at <http://www.csuchico.edu/ge/contact-us.shtml>
- Many students majoring in Child Development are able to incorporate a minor into their undergraduate work. Students are encouraged to declare their minor as soon as they begin taking minor coursework in order to allow their progress toward completion of their minor to be tracked on their Degree Progress Report. Minor advising is completed with the department of their minor.

### **2. Articulating courses from Chico State or previous colleges to the Child Development major**

- There are multiple ways to articulate previous coursework into your Child Development major and there is a specific information sheet that provides details; below is a summary:
  - [www.assist.org](http://www.assist.org) is a powerful resource that lists community college courses that will be automatically articulated to Chico State.
  - CAP 8 articulation allows students who have 24 specific early childhood units from an approved community college to articulate all lower division coursework in our Child Development major.
  - Any course can be considered for articulation for a Child Development course if there are matches regarding topic and design. Make an advising appointment to discuss the specifics of this process.
- For questions regarding articulating courses taken at Chico State into the Child Development major, please make an advising appointment.

**3. The Rainbow Room**

Modoc 125, more commonly known as The Rainbow Room, serves as the computer lab for Child Development majors. In addition to the computers, there is a printer, a library, supplies, a small refrigerator and microwave, and space to work. This is the perfect place for you to check Blackboard between classes.

**4. Child Development Student Association (CDSA)**

- CDSA is a student led organization for all students who have interest in children's education and welfare. The primary functions of this student organization are to:
  - provide career and professional development information to students interested in the field of child development,
  - facilitate opportunities for students to engage in community activities with children and families in order to participate in civic engagement, and
  - provide leadership opportunities for students who are pursuing graduate or employment opportunities where these skills are desirable. CDSA officers are elected each semester -- consider incorporating this opportunity.
- Meetings are usually held twice a month. Current information is posted on the CDSA bulletin board in the downstairs Modoc hallway. Get involved, it will make a positive difference in your undergraduate experience!

**5. Tutoring and Mentoring**

There are multiple opportunities to receive and provide tutoring and mentoring within the major. These opportunities will be posted and announced in courses and in advising bulletins.

**6. Internships**

- Child Development is an internship rich major. In the course of completing required coursework, you will accumulate more than 250 hours of work in community and lab school placements. These hours are incorporated into three field placements, carefully chosen programs in the community which serve children between infancy and emerging adulthood and their families. Students have choices within each field placement in order to fully explore career options. The specifics of each of the field placements are detailed in course descriptions.
- Be sure to become familiar with the Child Development Internship bulletin board in the downstairs Modoc hallway. Throughout the semester, four new senior internship sites will be featured each week. This is a great resource for internship selection and to increase your awareness of career opportunities.

**7. Leadership Opportunities**

In addition to opportunities for student leadership experiences within the Child Development Student Association (CDSA), there are also experiences for competent students to assist others at internship sites and within academic coursework. These opportunities will be posted and announced regularly.

**8. Chico State's Career Center**

The valuable resources available within Chico State's Career Center are highlighted in several courses in the Child Development major. Students are strongly encouraged to access these services as needed. The Career Center is familiar with requirements in the Child Development major and opportunities in the field. These resources are available at <http://www.csuchico.edu/careers>

**9. Filing for Graduation and Major/Minor Clearance forms**

- Filing for graduation and submitting Major and Minor clearance forms should be completed early in the semester **one year before your planned graduation semester**. Completion of these tasks allows for notification of any pending issues that must be addressed to graduate at the planned time.
  - File for graduation on the academic evaluations website, [www.csuchico.edu/evaluations](http://www.csuchico.edu/evaluations).
  - Participating in the Commencement Ceremony ("walking") is separate from graduating and should be completed at the same time as filing for graduation at <http://www.csuchico.edu/commencement/index.shtml>
  - Major clearance forms are available in the Child Development office. Students are strongly encouraged to make an advising appointment to complete the major clearance form. Completed forms are turned in to the Child Development office.
  - Contact the Department office of your declared minor for information related to the completion of your minor clearance form.