Child Studies
You should consider an interdisciplinary degree in child studies if you wish to:

- learn about the different factors (e.g., social, political, educational, familial and neural/biological) contributing to the development of children and youth;
- lay the foundations for a career oriented towards improving the conditions of children and youth; or
- prepare for graduate studies (Master’s degree or a PhD) in a child-related discipline.

If these are some of your goals, then Carleton’s Child Studies program is for you!

**The Carleton advantage**

**A unique program**

Carleton University is one of only a few universities in the country to offer advanced education in child studies.

Practitioners working with children and youth face the challenge of working in a variety of settings and assuming multiple roles and responsibilities. They engage in complex and changing relationships with parents and the community, as well as with various levels of government. The Child Studies program at Carleton provides you with the knowledge and skills needed for such diverse work experiences.

The Child Studies program was originally developed specifically for graduates of Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs, but direct entry is now available, which means that you do not need an ECE diploma to apply. If you have an ECE diploma and are selected for admission to the Child Studies program, you will be granted up to five credits upon admission, allowing you to enter directly into second year.

**An interdisciplinary approach**

Child Studies is a genuinely interdisciplinary program. Several courses are designed specifically to reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the field of child studies, and we also offer courses that have relevance to both global/international and Canadian contexts. In addition, you will be able to choose from
a wide range of courses offered in other Departments at Carleton University (e.g., Sociology, Anthropology, Public Affairs, Social Work, Psychology, Neuroscience, Journalism and History).

**Choosing the right program**

**Bachelor of Arts (General)**

**Bachelor of Arts (Honours)**

**Bachelor of Arts (BA) (General)**

A total of 15.0 credits are needed for the Bachelor of Arts (General) program. You will study the same topics as students in the Honours program and will select elective courses in collaboration with the Child Studies Coordinator. Upon graduation, you may meet the requirements to apply to a BEd degree program.

**Bachelor of Arts (Honours)**

The Honours program in Child Studies is an intensive, in-depth study of the field, and requires a total of 20.0 credits for completion. You will study a range of topics that will be approached from an interdisciplinary perspective through courses offered within the Child Studies program, as well as courses offered in other departments. You will also take a science or computer science credit, as well as an arts and social sciences credit. You will choose your own elective credits, though the courses must be approved by the Child Studies Coordinator.

Honours students are encouraged to develop an area of expertise. Possible options include sociocultural issues, management, human rights or child development. Your area of specialization will be highlighted in a fourth-year Honours thesis.

**Small seminar course**

In your first year in the program, you will study in small seminar courses, *Issues in Child Studies I* and *Issues in Child Studies II*, which are limited to Child Studies students. We have designed these seminars to help ease your transition to university life, as well as to give you the chance to get to know other students in your program. Topics of study vary from year to year.
A sample first year

- 1.0 credit in *Childhood in the Global Context* and *Childhood in Canadian Context*
- 1.0 credit in *Introduction to Psychology I* and *II*
- 1.0 credit in *Introduction to Sociology I* and *II*
- 0.5 credit in any second-year Canadian Studies or Indigenous Studies course
- 1.5 credits in electives

Future opportunities

**The workplace**
A degree in child studies can help qualify you for a variety of professions in a wide range of settings such as, for example, community-based organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations, humanitarian and philanthropic organizations, childcare centers and schools, and the private sector. **Note:** an ECE diploma is required for careers in Early Childhood Education.

**Graduate studies**
Graduates of our program are generally well qualified to pursue graduate studies in a variety of fields (e.g., child studies, psychology, sociology, developmental neuroscience or human rights). If you think that you may wish to pursue an advanced degree, you are encouraged to investigate graduate programs early and to discuss your course selection with the Child Studies Coordinator in order to ensure that your program meets the relevant graduate-level requirements.

**Professional programs**
Many professional programs, including teaching and social work, encourage well-rounded applicants from a variety of backgrounds to apply. Child Studies can qualify you for entry into an accredited professional teacher-training program (Teachers’ College) and can also provide a strong foundation for other programs.

**FAQs**
1. **Why would I choose an Honours program?**
   The four-year Honours program has many advantages, including offering the opportunity to take a wider variety of electives and to complete a thesis under the supervision of a faculty member. An Honours degree can provide preparation for
graduate studies and some professional programs and employment, as well as make your application to an accredited professional teacher-training program (Teachers’ College) more competitive.

2. Where can I go for academic advice?
The Child Studies Coordinator is available to help with any of your questions or concerns regarding the program. Once you are studying at Carleton, you will also have access to the Student Academic Success Centre (carleton.ca/sasc).

3. How do I get help with my academic records?
If you are having any problems with academic audits or admission to particular courses, contact the Child Studies Undergraduate Advisor.

Admission requirements
For admission to the Child Studies program, you must have the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent, including a minimum of six 4 U/M courses. Your six 4 U/M courses must include 4U English (or Anglais). For further information on applying to Child Studies, please visit admissions.carleton.ca/apply.

It is Carleton University policy to consider your best performance in any eligible course in the admissions assessment. Since the number of qualified applicants may be greater than the number of available spaces, cut-off averages and required marks may vary. Please refer to our website at admissions.carleton.ca/requirements for the current admission requirements.

For more information
....about the Child Studies program, please visit our website at carleton.ca/iis or consult the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar at carleton.ca/cuuc.

Ashley Richardson,
student in Child Studies

The Child Studies program is an exciting and interactive way to build on the knowledge you have gained through Early Childhood Education, and the interdisciplinary approach touches on psychology and sociology while giving you an opportunity to expand your knowledge in other areas of science, history and the arts.
Do you want more information? Please contact us at:

**Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies**  
Carleton University  
2201 Dunton Tower  
1125 Colonel By Drive  
Ottawa ON K1S 5B6  
Canada  
Tel: 613-520-2368  
Fax: 613-520-3985  
Email: iis@carleton.ca  
Website: carleton.ca/iis

**Undergraduate Recruitment Office**  
Carleton University  
315 Robertson Hall  
1125 Colonel By Drive  
Ottawa ON K1S 5B6  
Canada  
Tel: 613-520-3663  
Toll-free in Canada: 1-888-354-4414  
Fax: 613-520-3847  
Email: liaison@carleton.ca  
Website: carleton.ca/admissions

This document is available in a variety of accessible formats upon request. A request can be made on the Carleton University website at: carleton.ca/accessibility/request.

Click for more information you might be interested in:

**Carleton University**  
Canada’s Capital University

Produced by Creative Services and printed by Graphic Services  
132-13 800 10