

United Graduate School of Child Development

Educational Objectives

In line with the Educational Objectives of Osaka University, the United Graduate School of Child Development, Osaka University, Kanazawa University, Hamamatsu University School of Medicine, Chiba University and University of Fukui (“United Graduate School of Child Development”) offers a three-year doctoral degree program only, where internationally minded instructors and researchers specialized in medicine, psychology, health/nursing sciences, education, and interdisciplinary studies covering these disciplines work together beyond the borders of specialties, to educate students using a platform integrating the humanities and sciences. By studying and conducting research together with their peers with different backgrounds, students are guided to foster a truly interdisciplinary, flexible way of thinking and develop the ability to address children’s mental problems by applying cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise, and act as a leading researcher, leader, or high-caliber professional capable of meeting new demands arising in Japanese and international society in the future.

Cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise

Foster a truly interdisciplinary, flexible way of thinking and develop the ability to address children’s mental problems by applying cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise.

Advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking

Develop the ability to act as a leading researcher, leader, or high-caliber professional capable of meeting new demands arising in Japanese and international society in the future.

Sophisticated international mindset

Develop the abovementioned ability under the guidance of internationally minded instructors and researchers.

Advanced design prowess

Foster a truly interdisciplinary, flexible way of thinking and develop the ability to address children’s mental problems by applying cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise, and act as a leading researcher, leader, or high-caliber professional capable of meeting new demands arising in Japanese and international society in the future.

Individual educational objectives

The United Graduate School of Child Development brings together internationally minded instructors and researchers specialized in medicine, psychology, health/nursing sciences, education and interdisciplinary studies covering these disciplines beyond the borders of specialties, to educate students using a platform integrating the humanities and sciences. By studying and conducting research together with their peers with different backgrounds, students are guided to foster a truly interdisciplinary, flexible way of thinking and develop the ability to address children’s mental problems by applying cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise, and act as a leading researcher, leader, or high-caliber professional capable of meeting new demands arising in Japanese and international society in the future.

Degree Awarding Policy (Diploma Policy)

Under the Diploma Policy of Osaka University, the United Graduate School of Child Development, which offers a three-year doctoral degree program only, confers a Doctoral Degree in Child Development on individuals who have achieved the following objectives and met the requirements for completion.

- (1) Acquire advanced knowledge and skills in mental and brain development and disorders in children, and outstanding academic expertise that enables one to use such knowledge and skills for problem-solving with a correct understanding of the essence of the problem.
- (2) Acquire broad-based knowledge that enables one to refer to expertise in different fields, and a science-based perspective to think from multifaceted and comprehensive viewpoints and make objective judgments, and develop the ability to address mental problems in children by leveraging such knowledge and perspective, instead of simply relying on empirical reasoning.
- (3) Acquire advanced design prowess that enables one to identify a diverse range of fundamental and complex social and academic problems and work in collaboration with specialists in various other fields to devise approaches to solutions to such problems with enthusiasm.
- (4) Develop the ability to play a leadership role cooperatively and flexibly and with a truly interdisciplinary perspective to meet the demands of today's society.
- (5) Develop an international mindset as well as advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking that enable one to have a profound understanding of different languages and cultures, interact with people with varied backgrounds beyond such differences, think from multifaceted and comprehensive viewpoints, and conduct multi-angle evaluations with broad-based advanced knowledge.

Requirements for completion

- (1) To complete the doctoral degree program of the United Graduate School of Child Development, students should: enroll in the United Graduate School for at least three years; earn at least 30 credits in specific subjects; receive necessary research guidance; and pass a doctoral dissertation review conducted by the United Graduate School.
- (2) The doctoral dissertation should have been accepted for publication in a journal issued by the United Graduate School or in a peer-reviewed journal, in which the degree applicant is listed as the lead author and none of the co-authors are applying (or going to apply) for a degree.
- (3) Students are required to submit one doctoral dissertation, if written in English, or two doctoral dissertations, if written in Japanese, on research results achieved after enrollment in the United Graduate School.
- (4) Students who achieved exceptionally outstanding research results may complete the doctoral degree program in two years and six months, subject to approval at a Faculty Meeting.

Cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise

Acquire advanced knowledge and skills in mental and brain development and disorders in children, and outstanding academic expertise that enables one to use such knowledge and skills for problem-solving with a correct understanding of the essence of the problem.

Advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking

Acquire broad-based knowledge that enables one to refer to expertise in different fields, and a science-based perspective to think from multifaceted and comprehensive viewpoints and make objective judgments, and develop the ability to address mental problems in children by leveraging such knowledge and perspective, instead of simply relying on empirical reasoning.

Sophisticated international mindset

Develop an international mindset as well as advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking that enable one to have a profound understanding of different languages and cultures, interact with people with varied backgrounds beyond such differences, think from multifaceted and comprehensive viewpoints, and conduct multi-angle evaluations with broad-based advanced knowledge.

Advanced design prowess

Acquire advanced design prowess that enables one to identify a diverse range of fundamental and complex social and academic problems and work in collaboration with specialists in various other fields to devise approaches to solutions to such problems with enthusiasm.

Individual learning goals

Develop the ability to play a leadership role cooperatively and flexibly and with a truly interdisciplinary perspective to meet the demands of today's society.

Teaching and Learning Policy (Curriculum Policy)

In line with the Curriculum Policy of Osaka University, the United Graduate School, which offers a three-year doctoral degree program only, guides students with varied backgrounds using a platform integrating the humanities and sciences to acquire: internationally compatible, broad-based perspectives and basic knowledge that enable one to contribute to solving children's mental problems that face the entire world regardless of differences in culture; and academic expertise and basic research skills in the fields relating to their specialty.

The curriculum consists of: lecture-based introductory subjects to acquire basic academic skills; practical-training-based subjects to develop practical skills through hands-on learning at research institutions and support-providing organizations; and advanced major subjects (research guidance) to write a doctoral dissertation. Students can study introductory subjects offered by the member universities via the video conferencing system, and also attend practical training sessions held at the member universities, to acquire a broad range of knowledge. Advanced major subjects are designed to guide students to conduct research on the theme they chose and receive high-level guidance from a supervisor with cutting-edge, advanced knowledge, in order to write a doctoral dissertation.

(1) Introductory subjects (First year of the doctoral degree program)

Lecture-based introductory subjects are offered in the first year of the doctoral degree program to guide students with varied backgrounds to acquire basic academic skills required for the study of practical-training-based and advanced major subjects offered in the second and third years.

(2) Practical-training-based subjects (Second year of the doctoral degree program)

Students can attend practical training sessions held at the member universities and leading clinical and research institutions, and participate in conferences.

(3) Advanced major subjects (Second and third years of the doctoral degree program)

Students are guided to deepen specialized knowledge by regularly attending a seminar in their research field, and to conduct clinical and basic research on the theme they chose under the guidance of a supervisor in their research field.

Credits are given to students who have achieved a certain level in class attendance, reports and examinations.

To earn credits, students are also required to attend and make presentations at a meeting for reading papers held jointly by the five member universities of the United Graduate School of Child Development.

< Principles of Curriculum Design >

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< Contents and Methods of Education >

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Lecture-based introductory subjects are offered in the first year of the doctoral degree program to guide students with varied backgrounds to acquire basic academic skills required for the study of practical-training-based and advanced major subjects offered in the second and third years.

(2) Practical-training-based subjects (Second year of the doctoral degree program)

Students can attend practical training sessions held at the member universities and leading clinical and research institutions, and participate in conferences.

(3) Advanced major subjects (Second and third years of the doctoral degree program)

Students are guided to deepen specialized knowledge by regularly attending a seminar in their research field, and to conduct clinical and basic research on the theme they chose under the guidance of a supervisor in their research field.

< Academic Performance Evaluation Method >

The academic performance of students is evaluated based on class attendance, reports and examinations, and credits are given to students who have achieved a certain level. To earn credits, students are also required to attend and make presentations at a meeting for reading papers (or for reporting research plans/progress) held jointly by the five member universities of the United Graduate School of Child Development.