

NIPISSING

U N I V E R S I T Y

North Bay

www.nipissingu.ca

Child and Family Studies



Program Description

Are you fascinated with how children grow and become healthy adults? Do you have a particular interest in learning about families and what they need for success? Are you considering a career in developmental, behavioral, social, and/or community services where you can make a real difference? Then consider joining the Child and Family Studies (CHFS) program at Nipissing.

CHFS takes an interdisciplinary, lifespan approach to learning about children and adults, in the context of families and the world in which we live. We focus on applied learning, which means we make links between theory and the real world, and we give you opportunities to apply your learning in diverse community settings. We are one of the only undergraduate programs in Canada that offers coursework and practicum placements in applied behaviour analysis (ABA) and program evaluation and applied research (PEAR).

Our Teaching Approach

Our program supports applied learning. That means that we deliver a thorough theoretical foundation while identifying relevant and real world challenges. You will have opportunities to apply your learning within the community, and you will be encouraged to bring those experiences into the classroom. You will take courses in applied behaviour analysis, neurodevelopmental disorders (including autism and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders), assessment and intervention, ethics, program evaluation and applied research, children's rights, youth activism, and much more.

We offer two main streams: Human Development and Social Justice. Human Development is closely aligned with community and applied psychology, and focuses on developmental disabilities and intervention work. Social Justice is closely aligned with social welfare and sociology. Both streams combine learning theory with experience. You will learn from lectures, special presentations, guest speakers, and analyzing case studies. You will have several opportunities to gain real-world experience through practicum placements, hands-on course-based modules, and applied research and evaluation projects. These opportunities will expose you to human and social services sector agencies, where you will be challenged to assess real-world scenarios and apply what you've learned in order to improve individual and program outcomes.

Our interdisciplinary approach will expose you to many perspectives, and will help prepare you for a career in any number of sectors. For example, in the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders course, you will explore addictions, neurodevelopmental disabilities, marginalized communities, maternal/fetal rights, women-centered approaches to intervention, social determinants of health and wellbeing, social justice and ethics across education, health and community services, and justice sectors. You will also be able to take classes across other disciplines—including Psychology, Sociology, Social Welfare, History, and Gender Equality and Social Justice—to create a unique degree based on your own interests.

Small class sizes always encourage lively debate, and you may be surprised by the amount you learn from your classmates! You are never just a face in the crowd. You will get to know your professors, who are focused on helping you succeed. You have the option of studying full- or part-time, in face-to-face and blended learning environments.

Program and Faculty

Bachelor of Arts

- Honours Specialization
- Specialization
- Major
- Minor

In your first year, you will complete a breadth of introductory courses in topics like Psychology, Sociology, Child and Family Studies, and other electives. You will learn to think critically about many concepts and issues like social constructions of family, psychological explanations of human behaviour, the child welfare system, marginalized communities, equity issues, and much more.

In upper years, your focus can be tailored to one of our two streams. In the Human Development & Learning stream, you will study topics like child/youth development, adult development and aging, neurodevelopmental disabilities, ethics and professional standards, assessment and intervention, case management in social and health services, program evaluation and applied research, and applied behaviour analysis, to name a few. You can complete one or more of our Applied concurrent Certificates in Applied Behaviour



Analysis (ABA) or Program Evaluation & Applied Research (PEAR). These certificates will provide you with the competencies and the applied hands-on experience for careers across multiple sectors, including developmental/behaviour services, health/mental health services, child welfare, education, justice, government, or private. Alternatively, you may choose to pursue more focused and applied graduate studies options in these fields for further specialization. In the Social Justice Stream, you will study topics like children's rights, youth and social justice, the child and society, colonialism in First Nations communities, women and social welfare, abuse and violence within the family, and more.

Our accessible and approachable professors have backgrounds in many different disciplines, including psychology, sociology/social work, philosophy, political science, gender studies, and social welfare. As a result, they can teach theory and practice from different discipline perspectives. They have extensive professional experience and longstanding partnerships with community agencies, so they know what both students and employers need across diverse sectors. They also understand the unique learning needs of college transfer students, and they are committed to research and continually contributing to community, including experiential components in their classrooms and their research interests.

Certificates in Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA)

You may be interested in our ABA certificates if you are interested in: Making a meaningful difference in the lives of others through the science and application of behaviorism; Being well-equipped to work in a variety of settings such as schools, hospitals, long-term care facilities, treatment and rehabilitation centres, and other human and social services sectors; Helping atypically developing individuals with safety and independence, those living with developmental disabilities, dual diagnoses, neurodevelopmental disorders, dementia and cognitive decline associated with aging, mental health issues, or acquired brain injuries; Are interested in helping typically developing learners, in supporting classroom management, or using organizational behaviour management to maximize the performance of human service organizations. Our ABA Certificate courses, include applied behaviour analysis, ethics, intervention and assessment, applied developmental neuropsychology, autism spectrum and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, and you can complete these concurrently with your Major, Honours, or Specialized Honours BA.

Certificate in Program Evaluation & Applied Research (PEAR)

You may be interested in our PEAR Certificate if you are interested in: The systematic investigation and quality improvement of programs, projects, or services that support individuals across the lifespan; Becoming equipped to work across multiple sectors like schools, hospitals, social and community service agencies, public health agencies, justice, government, and private or corporate spheres; Improving the health outcomes of individuals receiving human and social services by improving the programs that offer those

services; Engaging in practicum or applied research with community agencies that help answer questions critical to client service and care. Our PEAR courses will provide you with theory and real world experience in an agency setting where you will contribute to evidence-informed decisions, be involved in process and outcomes level decision-making, carry out formative and/or summative evaluations, and help support conclusions about development, implementation, and outcomes of programs and services. You will learn about organizational assessment and development, quality improvement, evaluation standards, ethics, and capacity building in response to needs of individuals and agencies. You will learn to analyze programs and services, ultimately contributing to organizational and social value and enhanced client outcomes.

Bachelor of Education: The Schulich School of Education

If you want to earn a Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree as well, you can choose from the Concurrent route (available with all honours undergraduate programs except Nursing and Social Work), or the Consecutive Program (once you've completed your undergraduate degree).

The Schulich School of Education is one of the best education programs in Ontario. It will prepare you to teach in both traditional and non-traditional environments, and you will gain communication and collaborative skills that can be used in any career.

Our teacher candidates are immersed in an active professional learning environment with support and resources available through our Professional Learning Centre.

Each term a calendar of opportunities is made available, and you will be invited to participate in a series of real-world professional experiences that help you to hone skills, strategies and activities that integrate digital technology resources, enhance school community involvement, develop a personal résumé, portfolio and interview techniques, and much more.

All professional learning opportunities are designed to support and supplement course content by broadening teaching/learning skills and by building your confidence and readiness for the teaching profession.

Why Nipissing?

You will feel right at home the minute you step onto campus. Becoming a part of our community is just one of the many perks of attending Nipissing. You will also benefit from small class sizes where you will have a name and a voice. Should you need help, you will have access to our supportive professors, even outside of classroom hours.

Nipissing is focused on student success. So you will have access to a full range of student services that will help you succeed academically, financially, and personally.

In addition, we have some of the best residences in Canada, with a guaranteed private room for all first-year students coming directly from high school.



Where Can I Go From Here?

Some of our students begin a career in human and social services, health, education, or justice sectors. Graduates are a great fit for careers within child welfare/child protection, intervention services, applied behavioural analysis, or developmental and mental health services. You might work with individuals with developmental disabilities (including autism and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders), children/families within the child welfare sector, individuals interfacing with justice and correction systems, young children in early childhood development environments, or school children in the education system. You may also consider program level and policy development work, such as becoming a program evaluator or applied researcher with various ministries.

You may also pursue graduate studies or go on to do advanced professional degrees and become teachers, social workers, applied behavioural interventionists, mental health workers, or clinical psychologists.

With a CHFS degree, you will be equipped for success in a range of different careers paths.



Find Out Why You Belong at Nipissing

Sign up for Open House, a tour, or more information:
ibelongatnipissingu.ca

For more information please visit: www.nipissingu.ca/chfs



ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

Student Recruitment Office, 100 College Drive, Box 5002, North Bay, ON P1B 8L7
tel: (705) 474-3450 ext. 4200 • toll free (within Ontario): (800) 655-5154 • tty: (877) 688-5507
nuinfo@nipissingu.ca • www.nipissingu.ca • www.facebook.com/NipissingU • [@NipissingU](https://twitter.com/NipissingU) @NURecruitment

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