School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences
Master of Science in Human Development and Early Childhood Disorders

The Master of Science in Human Development and Early Childhood Disorders degree program is designed for students who want to work with infants and young children and their families in early childhood intervention programs and other professional settings, including schools, hospitals and medical clinics. Classroom training is combined with practical experience in a variety of clinical and educational settings.

The program offers a strong foundation in the normative path of physical, cognitive and social development with specialized training in diagnostic and intervention techniques for early childhood disorders and developmental guidance for parents.

Program Description
The MS in Human Development and Early Childhood Disorders requires the completion of a minimum of 45 semester credit hours, including practicum and internship placements.

For complete admission and degree requirements, view the Graduate Catalog at catalog.utdallas.edu.

Career Opportunities
Graduates of the program seek positions such as Early Intervention Specialist, Developmental Specialist, and Child Life Specialist in a variety of programs and locations, including non-profit agencies, hospitals, health care clinics, and schools.

 Marketable Skills
Upon successful completion of the MS in Human Development and Early Childhood Disorders, UT Dallas students will apply knowledge about typical and atypical early child development, assessment, and best practices to best serve children and their families with the following skills:

• Students will utilize skills in comprehensive developmental assessment to plan and implement appropriate intervention services.
• Students will apply principles of ethical professional practice, including use of reflective supervision to increase self-awareness, when working with children and their families.
• Students will critically evaluate research evidence to promote best practices in assessment, intervention, and service delivery.
The School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences is focused on the intersection of mind, brain and behavior. Through the school's research-intensive culture, our professors and students work together to unravel mysteries that will improve human lives. They accomplish this by engaging in novel scientific discovery, translating the latest research into treatments, and sharing this knowledge through professional and community outreach. The School provides innovative training and research, offering an array of programs to develop creative thinkers. Graduate training in BBS prepares students to become scientists, educators, clinicians, social service professionals, innovators, and corporate leaders.

**Graduate Research**

The School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences is committed to translating the latest research into interventions that add depth to education and provide valuable contributions to the health and well-being of humans. BBS researchers in neuroscience, psychology, and speech, language, and hearing sciences have many research grants from the most prestigious national funding agencies, including the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

**Departments**

**Neuroscience.** Research in the Department of Neuroscience focuses primarily on cell and circuit plasticity in the nervous system and how this influences behavior. Major research strengths are in learning and memory; targeted plasticity for therapeutic intervention; and the neurobiology of pain.

**Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences.** Research in the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences, based at the Callier Center for Communication Disorders, this program emphasizes clinical and translational research in basic scientific understanding of brain and behavioral mechanisms of speech, language, and hearing, as well as on disorders that affect the ability of children and adults to communicate. Research strengths broadly encompass basic science, applied (translational) applications, prevention, and remediation.

**Psychology.** Research in the Department of Psychology focuses on all aspects of cognitive, developmental, and social psychology, and cognitive neuroscience. Areas of expertise include learning and memory; reasoning; perception; modeling; lifespan development (from early childhood through the oldest old); and brain disease (e.g., autism, schizophrenia, traumatic injury, neurodegeneration, addiction).

### BBS Graduate Programs

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Research Centers
Many of the school’s activities are shaped significantly by faculty and student involvement in five centers listed below.

Callier Center for Communication Disorders: The Center is a national leader in providing care for children and adults with speech, language, and hearing disorders. Supporting this clinical mission, faculty members research the causes, treatments and prevention of communication disorders.

Center for Advanced Pain Studies: This Center’s mission is to elucidate fundamental mechanisms underlying chronic pain, and to discover novel therapeutics for the treatment of chronic pain through academic, public and private partnerships.

Center for BrainHealth: This Center focuses its research on understanding the brain’s ability to restore or protect healthy function, to protect the brain from unnecessary mental decline and to heal the brain through treatments that regenerate function.

Center for Children and Families: Center research emphasizes parenting and healthy families, strengthening interpersonal relationships, and enhancing thinking and learning.

Center for Vital Longevity: This Center focuses on understanding and expanding the capacity of the aging mind, aiming to understand how the brain changes over the lifespan, the consequences of neural aging on everyday function, and interventions that show promise for slowing cognitive aging.

Texas Biomedical Device Center: The Center consists of scientists, engineers, medical doctors, regulatory specialists, and clinicians committed to the development of affordable and innovative therapies and technologies to improve the quality of life for individuals suffering from neurological disorders.

Additional Facts about BBS
• Our Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology programs are ranked #2 and #10 in the nation respectively, according to U.S. News and World Report.
• The School is home to leading experts in Psychology, Neuroscience and Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences.
• In fiscal year 2019, BBS faculty members were responsible for nearly $13 million in total research funding, including roughly $12 million from National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and Department of Defense.
• BBS has more than 2,300 undergraduate students and nearly 600 graduate students, including two of the top 10 undergraduate majors at UTD (Neuroscience, Psychology).