

Developmental Psychology

DIVISION OF
BEHAVIORAL
SCIENCE

PROGRAMS OF STUDY:

B.A. in Developmental Psychology

OPTIONAL TRACKS IN: Child Trauma & Resilience,
Community Psychology, and Relationship and
Sexual Health

Minors in Developmental Psychology and its tracks
are also available

EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS

- Blount County Health Department
- Blount County Juvenile Justice Center
- Blount County Schools
- Boys and Girls Club
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
- Family Promise
- Harmony Family Center
- Haven House
- Helen Ross McNabb
- Maryville City Schools, Family Resource Center
- The Middle Path
- New Hope Blount County Children's Advocacy Center
- Planned Parenthood
- Second Harvest
- Tennessee Department of Children's Services
- TN Kids Belong
- U.S. Secret Service

GRADUATE SCHOOL PLACEMENTS

Auburn University
Carson-Newman University
Cumberland University
East Tennessee State University
Lincoln Memorial University
Mercer University
Tennessee Technological University
Tusculum College
University of Alabama, Huntsville Boston University
University of Houston
University of Illinois, Springfield
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Vanderbilt University



MARYVILLE
COLLEGE
IN THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS

Why study Developmental Psychology at Maryville College?

The College's Developmental Psychology major will enable you to build a strong foundation in the theory and practice of development, from conception through aging. Various community-based opportunities are embedded throughout the curriculum so that you can learn how to provide direct service to individuals at various ages, as well as engage in developmental research and child welfare initiatives. You also will have opportunities for trainings that lead to professional certifications and credentials. The Developmental Psychology major offers options in three contemporary tracks of developmental science: Child Trauma and Resilience, Community Psychology and Relationship and Sexual Health, as well as an option for an individualized focus. (See reverse for specific details about tracks.)

MEET A CURRENT SCOT

Ella Reyes

Hometown: Knoxville, Tennessee



Majoring in Developmental Psychology (Child Trauma and Resilience track) and minoring in Health and Wellness Promotion, Ella is interested in learning "how children are wired and the impact of childhood experiences on lifetime health and wellness." Although she is not set on her post-MC plans, Ella would like to mentor children who live in urban neighborhoods or experience trauma – possibly incorporating athletics and performance training. A tennis

player and Bonner Scholar, Ella explored this approach during a summer internship with Emerald Youth Foundation in 2025.

"I've gotten the opportunity to serve at amazing non-profits like New Hope Children's Advocacy Center and Gateway to Independence," she added. "I really enjoy connecting with my professors and local nonprofits to help make the community better as I continually learn more."

MEET A RECENT GRAD

Maddie Cunningham '23

Currently: Adoption Support and Preservation (ASAP) Family Therapist with Harmony Family Center in Knoxville/Maryville, Tennessee



Maddie majored in Developmental Psychology (Child Trauma and Resilience track) and minored in ASL-Deaf Studies, graduating cum laude in May 2023. She then enrolled in the master of science in social work (MSSW) degree program at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and graduated in May 2025. Now with Harmony, she does in-home visits, conducts individual or family therapy for families who have adopted and helps plan family and day camps throughout the year at the center's Montvale property.

"Not only were my classes in my undergrad very helpful to tie into my graduate school classes, but through comprehensive exams and senior thesis, I felt that I had a stronger knowledge of developmental psychology than many peers in my program," she said.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

visit maryvillecollege.edu/psychology or call 865.981.8092

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A ***Child Trauma and Resilience*** track represents highly relevant curriculum grappling with issues recognized at local, state, national and international levels. The greater the exposure to things such as domestic violence, addiction and depression in early childhood, the greater the risk for later-life problems such as chronic illnesses, poverty, depression and addictive behaviors. With community-wide support, children who have experienced childhood trauma develop resilience to succeed in school, maintain healthy lifestyles and positively contribute to civic life. Students in this track advance their professional preparation and learn how to positively impact populations through coursework, internships and engagement with a wide variety of community organizations.



The ***Community Psychology*** track explores how individuals across their lifespan relate to their communities and, reciprocally, how communities affect individuals, integrating social, cultural, economic, political, environmental and international influences. Students in this track learn to promote positive change, health and empowerment at individual and systemic levels. The application of social justice principles, the decreasing of human suffering and the promoting of human values of equality and justice are applied to work in professions such as non-profit leadership, education, counseling, criminal justice and political science. The Community Psychology track includes a focus on cultural competency, mediation, communication and policy issues.



The ***Relationship and Sexual Health*** track gets to the heart of how to build healthy relationships and sexual health, as well as how to promote these in the community. Research shows us that when we have relationship and sexual health, we are better students, parents, employees and citizens, and we report a higher quality of life. In this track, students untangle the various constructs at work involved in relationship science and contemporary topics of sexuality using a Bio/Psycho/Social approach and use that information to first enhance their own lives, then focus on infusing key concepts into the community through internships and research projects. Professions where these skills are vital include education, counseling, public health promotion, public policy, advocacy, non-profit leadership and social work.