Diploma in Child and Adolescent Psychology

The Diploma in Child and Adolescent Psychology will benefit you if you’re working, or aspiring to work, in a teaching or support role with children and adolescents. You will learn about child and adolescent development, the impact of ecological issues, how psychological disorders develop according to bio-psycho-social-cultural theories, and when to refer young people for professional help. You will also learn about the services involved in caring for young people in New Zealand, the legal and ethical issues involved with working with young people, and more.

Career opportunities

You’ll benefit from the programme if you’re a parent, educator, counsellor, nurse or social worker. You would also find this course useful if you are employed in a government or community agency working with children, adolescents, their family and whānau.

How to apply

Go to the choose courses tab on the qualification page on our website. If you’re enrolling in this qualification for the first time select 73197 Counselling Theory and click add to enrolment plan. You’ll be taken through our step-by-step enrolment process, which you can save and exit from at any time.
Qualification structure

This programme is made up of six courses worth 20 credits each. Visit the qualification page on our website to check course availability and prerequisites before applying to enrol.

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GROUP TWO – CHOOSE ONE COURSE FROM THIS GROUP

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<td>Social and Individual Psychology</td>
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What you will learn

- developmental stages and psychological disorders of children and adolescents, including how biological, psychological and environmental factors impact on development.
- how ecological issues such as whānau, family, educational, social, political, and legal factors impact on children and adolescents.
- psychological theories and principles within the field of clinical child psychology so that you can recognise some of the issues children, adolescents and their families and whānau experience that could require intervention, including Māori perspectives of these issues.
- when to refer children and adolescents to relevant services, agencies and organisations for appropriate psychological assessment, intervention and treatment.
- the ethical and legal issues that impact on work with children and adolescents in Aotearoa New Zealand, including implications of the Treaty of Waitangi.
- how to apply behavioural principles to modify child and adolescent behaviour.

Entry requirements

You must be at least 17 years of age at the start of the programme and have one of the following:

- New Zealand University Entrance (Visit nzqa.govt.nz for details).
- ‘passes’ in New Zealand certificate/diploma qualifications/courses considered appropriate by the programme leader
- an overseas qualification assessed to be equivalent to either of the above by the programme leader.

Contact us if you don’t meet the above criteria to discuss your study options.

Pre-entry test

To gain entry into this qualification you also need to pass an online pre-entry test. You will be exempt from doing the test if you have successfully completed study worth at least 20 credits at Level 5 or higher.

Textbooks

You may also need to purchase textbooks for some courses at an additional cost to your course fees.

Computer and online access

Some of the courses are delivered online so you will need to have regular access to a computer or device, a reliable broadband internet connection and a data plan to be able to support your online learning. You will need to stream videos, download content and submit assessments online.

English language

The ability to read and write well in English is required to study this programme. Visit openpolytechnic.ac.nz/englishlanguage to view our English language criteria.

International students

You can study this programme if you’re a New Zealand citizen living overseas or if you are an international student living in New Zealand and working part time with a verified work permit.

Visit openpolytechnic.ac.nz/internationalstudent for more information about the special conditions and fees that you’ll need to meet.