



**A HANDBOOK FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS IN CHILD
DEVELOPMENT**

**A WORD OF WELCOME FROM THE COORDINATOR, CHILD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT,
DAYSTAR UNIVERSITY: DR. HARRAHS N. MALINDA**

Warm hearty welcome to Daystar University Child Development Programme; At Daystar, we pride to bring into the academic arena integration of Child Theology and instruction to ensure that our graduate students have the heart of God as they care and serve children, families and societies. We believe that the first years of life matters most and that what happens to children in these years will eventually shape their capacity to learn, to work, to live and to attain eternity. Children therefore need proper guidance to attain their full potential.

Our Child Development Programme aims to equip Christian professionals in the field of ministry to children with the necessary knowledge and skills to understand every aspect of a child's growth and development process. Our curriculum is well designed and contextualized to ensure the implemented interventions for children take into account the unique social, economic, and cultural contexts in which African children operate. We are blessed to be the premier University in Africa currently training the next generation of Christian professionals in the field of ministry to children who have knowledge, passion and compassion for children to impact holistically and eternally into their lives. We welcome you to train with us and experience the difference holistic instruction and application makes in the lives of children.

Our course offerings are designed to give our students research-based knowledge relevant to ministry to children in the public, private and in Faith Based Organizations engaged in ministry with children. The courses enhance professional development that emphasize the relationships, competencies and knowledge of Christian Professionals in the field of ministry to children should have to connect well with the children and families and to serve them well .

Welcome!

ABOUT THE MASTER OF ARTS IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT

The Master of Arts in Child Development Programme consists of a core of required courses, specialization courses and electives. The required and specialization courses are designed to provide Christian professionals in ministry with children with advanced preparation in Child Development, cultural diversity, programme management, research methodology, counseling, professional development and integration of faith with learning. The culmination experience requirement for the Programme is the successful completion of a thesis. The Programme is designed to deepen theoretical knowledge, to promote professional growth, and to enhance the competencies of Christian professionals in ministry with children as well as those students who want to make a career in working with children in diverse situations upon completion of their course.

The Programme curriculum incorporates theory, research, policy and practice to provide our Christian professionals in ministry with children a thorough grounding in child development. The Programme is particularly appropriate for individuals who already possess entry –level credentials in Psychology or other disciplines that cover education such as Social Work, Community Development, education, law and those who wish to develop greater expertise and deeper knowledge about children in order to advance in their careers or to prepare for new occupational options. This includes individuals such as professionals in ministry with children in faith based organizations, Social Work, parent educators, child/youth advocates in social and legal arenas, child and family counselors, teachers in elementary, middle and secondary schools, pediatric nurses, and professionals in public and health care agencies among others.

Daystar University is the premier institution that is offering this course in Africa. We are proud of our hospitality to children. We recognize that Jesus loved children and drew them near to him, inviting them to come to him “ *whoever welcomes one of these children in my name, welcomes me*, (Mark 9:37) is our guide to initiating this programme. We uphold the believe that God is the protector and friend of needy children and He expects Christians today to be their protector and friends. Children are a significant part of the Mission of Daystar University of fulfilling the mandate to care for children. Through the Child Development program, Daystar University feels called to this mission. We want the program to make a real difference in the lives of children in Africa and beyond.

By studying child development, you will be able to do the following among other aspects:

- Identify key actions that a supporting organization should consider to enable the community to serve children well.
- work with children as partners – listening to them, engaging them and find out their needs and hopes, understand the challenges they face, identify and prioritize strategies to address these challenges
- ensure that all organizational activities protect children from harm
- become transparent and accountable to children
- make realistic and manageable plans that benefit children
- Make the best use of available resources and successfully access additional resources to further the cause for children.
- Monitor and evaluate what you are doing for children and see what impact your interventions are making in their lives.
- Identify what is working well and not working well in your organization, and come up with strategies for improvement.
- Advocate for changes within the community and within national and international levels so that children's rights are realized.

God bless you as you embark on your journey of successful learning!

Definition & Nature of the Master of Arts in Child Development Programme

This program seeks to train the student in the science and art of managing the physical, intellectual, social, and the spiritual growth and development of children and adolescents growing up under various circumstances in Africa and beyond.

Programme Objectives

1. To equip students with knowledge and skills in Child Development.

2. To identify developmental needs and changes among children and adolescents
3. To identify various ways of handling the developmental needs and changes in children.
4. To explore ways through which student will integrate Christian faith and work among children and adolescents.
5. To equip the students with skills in studying, research, and publication in the field of child development
6. To equip the students with facilitation skills that will assist them in carrying out participatory training on child development issues at the community level.
7. To impart skills to students on how to connect theories of child growth and development to social policy, education and intervention

Expected competences upon completion of the study programme

With the gained knowledge, graduate students are able to do the following among others:

- Examine and develop living and learning environments, materials and interactions that foster meaningful growth and development of children.
- Adapt classroom environments, programs, curriculum and attitudes to facilitate the learning of children with special needs.
- Learn effective ways on how to relate biblical theological understanding of children ministry to key practices involving children.
- Understand the problems and challenges children face at each phase of development and intervene appropriately.

- Manage, monitor and evaluate child development programs based on standards and indicators for best practices.
- Design and utilize research methods appropriate to Children

THE MASTER OF ARTS IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT CURRICULUM

COURSE CODE	Course Title	CREDIT HOURS
BIL 615	Biblical Foundations for Christian Service	2
CHD 610	Theories of Child & Adolescent Development	2
GRW 611	Graduate Writing	2
GRW 613	Graduate Research & Writing (research methods for children)	2
CHD 632	Health Education and Habit Formation in Children	3
CHD 600	Evangelism and Discipleship for Children	2
CHD 601	The Role of the Church in Child Development	2
CHD 611	Child and Adolescent Development	3
CHD 631	Developmental Psychopathology in Children	3
CHD 620	Management of Child Development Programmes 1	3
CHD 640	Facilitation for Child Development	2
CHD 622	Management of Child Development Programmes 2	3
CHD 633	Assessment and Intervention Skills	3
CHD 603	Child Behaviour, Guidance and Counselling	3
CHD 607	Practicum and Seminar	4
CHD 609	Children Rights & Advocacy Skills	3
CHD 698	Thesis	6
	TOTAL CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED TO GRADUATE	48

THE COURSE SYLLABI

We offer professionals in ministry to children the opportunity to develop their skills through set training modules on a variety of topics indicated below. Our training programs are backed by extensive experience in delivering effective, practical training. They are grounded in the strongest research available, and delivered by expert instructors. Our goal is to provide support and training to our students so that they can empower children, families and communities by promoting good childhood relationships, education and comprehensive family development.

1. BIL 611: BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE 2 CREDIT HOURS

This course is designed to give students a Biblical foundation in their lives and work, enabling them to be transformational agents in society. They will do this by spiritually empowering them to adequately become Christian Professionals in Ministry with Children. The course explores the challenges of empowering the poor in a world marked by marginalization, disempowerment, abuse, and injustice. Poverty is explored from a number of perspectives, concluding with a biblical framework. Responses to poverty are explored, including the goals of transformational development and the process and principles by which it is pursued.

2. CHD 600: EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP FOR CHILDREN 2 CREDIT HOURS

This course is designed to help the student to develop professionals skilled in the theory and practice of missions for committed service with children and families in a dynamic world. Students will be equipped with basic and effective methods to evangelize children. Emphasis is placed on organizing and conducting meaningful classroom activities which can enrich children spiritually.

3. CHD 601: THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT 2 CREDIT HOURS

This course is designed to help students gain an awareness of the wide variety of churches and church-related contexts in both urban and rural areas as they specifically relate to children. An examination of the spiritual needs of children in light of their physical, social, emotional and mental development is explored with the role of religious education in the church, the school, and the home being highlighted.

4. CHD 610: THEORIES OF CHILD & ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT 2 CREDIT HOURS

This course examines the main models and theories of religious/spiritual development which apply to children, including James Fowler, Oser, Gillespie, Elkind, Aden, and Fuller. It also examines selected models and theories of Child Development which are potentially applicable to nurturing children including Piaget, Vygotsky, Kohlberg and Erickson. Students also explore the Holy Scriptures with a view to developing a theology of children. The aim is to develop an integrated approach to the transmission of religious values and nurturing the spiritual and character growth of children primarily through the home, and secondarily through the church, the school and the wider community.

5. CHD 611: CHILD AND ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT 3 CREDIT HOURS

This course is designed to prepare students to identify the physical, intellectual, spiritual and social/emotional development of children from conception through adolescence. The students will apply knowledge of how children develop and learn to support diverse needs of children and their families.

6. CHD 632 : HEALTH EDUCATION AND HABIT FORMATION IN CHILDREN 3 CREDIT HOURS

This course is designed to help students gain knowledge on the basic principles and practices of safety, health and nutrition as they relate to the children settings, homes, and communities. It will also includes a study of the principles of creating appropriate environments for children to grow and live, a study of nutrition, health, safety, and related activities, including skill development in management of issues, guidelines, and practices in nutrition, as well as community health, hygiene, safety, and legal implications. Integration of these principles applied to a variety of settings is emphasized.

7. CHD 607: PRACTICUM AND SEMINAR 4 CREDIT HOURS

This course aims to assist students in integrating their learning as preparation for beginning professional practice in Child Development. The course integrates practical experience and theoretical knowledge as the student works directly with children living in Childcare settings, families and Institutions. Students examine and develop environments, materials, interactions, and planning which foster meaningful growth and development of children. Students meet weekly for a seminar to discuss theory, strategies, curriculum, and observations/ case studies related to the practicum.

8. CHD 620: MANAGEMENT OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES I. 3 CREDIT CREDIT HOURS

The purpose of this course is to provide students with guidance, key principles and framework for development and effective management of Child Development programs. Students examine the issues surrounding the development and administration of Child Development programs/projects and develop knowledge of and skills in the directorship, the development of budgets, funding acquisition, the writing of program policies, the management of a facility and the formation of professional relationships with staff, parents and the community.

9. CHD 622: MANAGEMENT OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES II. 3 CREDIT HOURS

The course is designed to build the capacity and professionalism of students and serve as a resource guide in their planning, implementation and evaluation of successful programs for children. The course offers rules and guidelines for distinctive programming approaches for child development programs.

10. CHD 633: ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION SKILLS 3 CREDIT HOURS

This course is designed to equip students with skills and assessment tools on the levels of the problems of deprivation affecting children. It will help students to develop strategies to intervene in diverse situations facing children.

11. CHD 603 : CHILD BEHAVIOUR, GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING 3 CREDIT HOURS

This course is designed to help students develop a variety of guidance management strategies and skills for guiding and counseling children based upon Child Development principles. The emphasis of the course is on preparing, organizing and maintaining physically and psychologically safe environments for children to live and thrive. The establishment of positive, collaborative family relations and supportive, professional, ethical behavior is emphasized. Consequences of stress and trauma on child development and behavior are explored. Observing and assessing child behavior is emphasized. Special attention is given to introducing ethical issues and how gender, class, and culture affect the counseling process.

12. CHD 609: CHILDREN RIGHTS & ADVOCACY SKILLS 3 CREDIT HOURS

This course is designed to familiarize the student with the concepts of advocacy and children's rights through lectures, small group activities, written assignments and class presentations. The course helps students to identify children's rights as stipulated in the different local and international child protection instruments. The students will be able to understand why and how all children are covered by the law and

their duty to work towards advocating for children rights and facilitate children to participate in issues affecting their lives.

13. CHD 640: FACILITATION FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT 2 CREDIT HOURS

This course designed is to introduce or reinforce facilitation techniques and methodologies as an empowering/enabling process for working with children and partner projects. It provides students with skills to enhance child participation and communication in individual and group learning settings.

14. CHD 631: DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOPATHOLOGY IN CHILDREN 3 CREDIT HOURS

This course provides an overview of children psychopathology. An interactive developmental perspective for conceptualizing psychopathology as well as resilience is employed. In particular, the influence of development, neurobiological mechanisms, and contextual features in a child's life on the emergence, exacerbation, and alleviation of psychopathology is explored. Contemporary diagnostic and treatment issues are critically reviewed.

15. GRW 611: GRADUATE WRITING 2 CREDIT HOURS

This course is designed to expose the student to the higher level academic skills required for graduate studies and to develop those skills, especially as applied to the development of acceptable academic papers. It seeks to prepare the student to do effective research in his/her major field of study by introducing him/her to different research paradigms, procedures and processes. Types of research studies and methodologies, philosophical bases for perspectives, research designs, statistical data analysis techniques, data presentation, Qualitative methods - observational techniques, validity and reliability, interpretation of research findings are explored.

16. GRW 613 : RESEARCH METHODS FOR CHILDREN 2 CREDIT HOURS

This course is designed to help students develop research skills and related competencies involved in planning, conducting, and reporting research with children. Students will also develop skills necessary for the interpretation and application of child development research. Students will become familiar with the use of child-friendly techniques in the research process.

17. CHD 698: THESIS 6 CREDIT HOURS

The Masters' Thesis for the M.A. in Child Development is a research project designed and carried out by the student, under the direction of a Supervisor-Reader team. While all students in the M.A. programme are expected to be good consumers of research, the thesis project is designed to prepare students to contribute to the research in the field and to gain important research experience necessary for entrance into a doctoral program.

The following are areas to be assessed upon completion of the thesis:

Overall structure

1. The thesis should be of adequate length to cover the research and also concise enough to reflect adequate refining.
- b. In terms of organization, the thesis should flow from beginning to the end. It should also have appropriate divisions into chapters and sections. Discussions should be made at the appropriate place of particular issues.
- c. Cohesion: It should cover: focus on the topic, avoid unnecessary diversions, effective organization of arguments, and should culminate in a definitive conclusion.
- d. Proportions: The thesis should consider the relative space devoted to each chapter, such as introduction, literature review, data analysis, conclusions, appendices, etc.

General Content

1. Overview /introduction to research: Attention should be given to areas such as research framework and background, presentation of the problem, clarity of purpose statement, clarity of objectives, and theoretical framework.
2. Literature review: This should consider appropriate coverage of relevant topics, articulation of presentation in light of research topic, and reflection of current scholarship in the field.
3. Research methodology should cover the appropriateness of method(s) and tool(s) to research intent, clarity of presentation, and effectiveness of data collection.
4. Findings and analysis needs to demonstrate clarity and accuracy in presentation of findings, critical interpretation of findings, and integration of research findings with literature review.
5. Conclusions and recommendations should include a thoughtful summary of research, correlation of findings and summary with research objectives and theoretical framework, and substance of recommendations. They should also include how the student's thesis contributes to existing knowledge and new questions that warrant further investigations.

Overall Writing Style and Formatting

The student will be required to produce ones own original work. Plagiarism is a criminal offence and will be treated with the seriousness it deserves. Attention should be given to composition and grammar, formatting, and the production of a clean copy free of typographical errors, as well proper referencing with care given to the place of quotations, citations, and bibliography. The bibliography should be adequate in length and breath of reading, with most works included being referred to in the text.

Scholarly contributions

These will cover scope, depth, and knowledge of field of study.

Admission Requirements

To qualify for admission in the MA Child Development applicant should:

1. Hold an undergraduate degree in child-related study discipline like Child Development, Social Work, Community Development, Psychology, Christian Ministry. Applicants with degrees in education, post graduate diploma in education are also legible. Applicants with field based experience in working with children despite having degrees that are not necessarily child –focused will be considered. Applicants should have attained their degrees from accredited institutions of higher learning, with a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA)of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, or a degree awarded with an upper second class honors or better.
2. Be born again Christians.
3. **Language requirement:** The student must exhibit sufficient mastery of the English language, as demonstrated by a score of 500 or higher on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), or an equivalent score on the British English language examination (International English Language Test), or an examination set by Daystar University. Students from Anglophone countries will be exempted from the test, although the University may request any student to sit for a diagnostic English examination if the academic staff believes that the student’s mastery of English is insufficient.

Requirement for Graduation:

To graduate, students must meet the following qualification:

1. Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 throughout the course.
2. Achieve a final minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0
3. Have successfully covered & passed the 48 credit hours which includes course work, practicum & thesis.

Medium of Instruction and Programme Administration

The medium of instruction for the Masters of Arts Child Development shall be English.

Student Assessment

Course grades are derived as follows:

40% from Continuous Assessment Tests, projects, term papers, field reports and field evaluations. 60% from final examination.

Code of Conduct :

Daystar University is committed to ensuring that all members of its academic community conduct themselves according to the highest ethical and professional standards. Students are expected to maintain Academic honesty.

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence at Daystar University. It undercuts the very process of learning and more so where students and faculty have committed themselves to following Jesus Christ. Such behavior is a serious violation of the trust that must exist between the faculty and students in order for the University to nurture intellectual growth and development.

Academic dishonesty includes but not limited to stealing exams, using hidden information when writing exams, copying exam answers, submitting papers written by others as one's own, failing to give credit in a research paper for words or ideas used from others. If it is established that a student has committed academic dishonesty, the part of the course related to the offence will be failed, and could result in failure of the course or dismissal from the University. In case of proven academic dishonesty, the University policy on Academic Discipline will apply.

Grading System

The following is the grading system for postgraduate programmes of Daystar University:

Marks (%)	Letter Grade	Grade Point Per Credit	Significance
91 – 100	A	4.0	Superior
81 – 90	A-	3.7	
76 – 80	B+	3.3	
71 – 75	B	3.0	Average
66 – 70	B-	2.7	
61 – 65	C+	2.3	
56 – 60	C	2.0	
51 – 55	C-	1.7	Below average
46 – 50	D+	1.3	
41 – 45	D	1.0	
40 and below	F	0.0	Unacceptable for credit

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A course receiving less than a “C” grade will automatically be graded an “F” and must be repeated in order to receive credit.

Students will be allowed to repeat failed courses once. Whatever grade the student achieves after repeat will be averaged in the GPA.

Courses, which are required but carry no credit, are not used in calculating the GPA.

GPA for a student is obtained by dividing the total number of credits attempted into the total number of grade points obtained.

Transcripts:

All grades for course work must be recorded on the student’s transcript and averaged with the Grade Point Average (except that courses carrying no credit are not calculated into the cumulative Grade Point Average).

Financial Details

The following are the financial details for the Master of Arts degree in Child Development.

Financial Details (Dollar/KES Estimate Rate of \$1=KES 75 assumed)		
Charge	Amount (KES)	Amount (Dollars)
Tuition (30Hrs) @ 7,100 per Credit Hour	225,000	\$3000
Examination Fee	1,250	\$16.67
Library	2,000	\$26.67
Student Activity	1,000	\$13.33

Technology Fee	6,000	\$80
OPTIONAL FEES		
Charges to all 1st year students in 1st semester		
Orientation Day	3,000	\$40
Registration Fees	1,000	\$13.33
Caution Money	2,000	\$26.67
Charged to all final year students		
Graduation Fees	5,000	\$66.67

Application Procedure:

Application forms are available on request upon payment of KES.100, (US \$ 1.33) non-refundable application fee, at the University's Nairobi or Athi River Campus or you can also download application forms at this link: <http://www.daystar-cdi.ac.ke/downloads/admission.pdf> . A non-refundable application fee of KES.2000 (US \$ 26.67) is required on return of the forms.

The deadline for applications are as follows: August Intake: July 31st, May Intake: April 30th, January Intake: November 30th.

For more details or enquiries, email us or call us on the contacts provided here below.

University Contacts

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