

**WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY**  
**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES**  
**BASIC COURSE INFORMATION**

**COURSE TITLE:** Children and Families in Context  
**COURSE NUMBER:** PSY 454

**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Families have a powerful influence on individual development. This course examines effects on children from family contexts through the lens of bioecological theory. Various levels of systems and processes are investigated through application of global contemporary family situations and issues.

**II. MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:**

**GOAL A:**

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the bioecological theoretical approach to studying child development.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

- A-1 Identify key terms related to systems (microsystem, mesosystem, exosystem, and macrosystem) and processes (process, person, context, and time) of Bronfenbrenner's bioecological theory.
- A-2 Provide descriptions and examples for each system and process.
- A-3 Describe how bioecological theory is applied to understanding child development.
- A-4 Analyze similarities and differences across cultures in the U.S. and globally.
- A-5 Explore various career paths that require an understanding of child development in family contexts.

**Goal B:**

Students will demonstrate an understanding of family and child risk and resilience.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

- B-1 Define and provide examples of risk and resilience in relation to both





- G-1 Appraise the needs of the audience and then speak in a clear and succinct manner.
- G-2 Research, construct, and deliver professional presentations using a variety of communication tools and techniques.
- G-3 Write with clarity and precision using correct English grammar: mechanics (punctuation) and usage (sentence structure and vocabulary).
- G-4 Exhibit competence in writing for specific purposes, diverse audiences, and genres.
- G-5 Correctly and ethically present scholarly writings utilizing the selected citation and writing style deemed appropriate for the student's program of study.