

**Common Course Outline**  
**HUSC/PSYC 222**  
**Child and Adolescent Psychopathology**  
**3 Credits**

**The Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

**HUSC/PSYC 222 – Child and Adolescent Psychopathology** provides an overview of common mental health diagnoses occurring in childhood and adolescence. This course includes a research-based perspective on the presentation, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of disorders identified in the current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual. This course addresses situations and dynamics in child and adolescent development that influence disorders, risk, vulnerability, protective factors, and resilience.

**3 Credits**

**Prerequisites:** PSYC 101 or HUSC 139

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. evaluate the historical perspectives on child and adolescent development, including their explanations of risk factors, etiology, and implications for treatment;
2. describe the relationship between attachment and overall child development;
3. apply relevant ethical and legal codes to situations involving clinical practice with children and adolescents;
4. infer the implications of social, cultural, and familial factors in child and adolescent development on diagnosis, treatment, and continuity or access to care;
5. identify diagnostic traits of the major categories of disorders listed in Major Topics;
6. apply assessment and treatment models to clinical presentations of the disorders listed in Major Topics;
7. describe the implications for co-occurring disorders and potential complications in the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment processes;
8. synthesize contemporary research on treatment practices, including evidence-based practices in work with children and adolescents;
9. evaluate the role of influential adults (teachers, coaches, caregivers) in the assessment process and confirmation of diagnoses;
10. strategize engagement techniques to involve others as clinically appropriate; and,
11. critically evaluate the use of pharmacological treatments for children and adolescents.

**Major Topics**

- I. Historical and developmental perspectives
- II. Ethical and legal issues in child/adolescent psychotherapy

- III. Sociocultural and familial factors that influence the development and treatment of disorders
- IV. Diagnosis, assessment, and treatment in children and adolescents:
  - A. Depressive disorders and suicide
  - B. Bipolar and related disorders
  - C. Trauma/stressor-related disorders
  - D. Anxiety disorders
  - E. Learning disorders
  - F. Impulse control and conduct disorders
  - G. Schizophrenia spectrum and psychotic disorders
  - H. Somatic symptom disorders
  - I. Neurodevelopmental disorders
  - J. Elimination disorders
  - K. Feeding and eating disorders
  - L. Sex and gender issues
  - M. Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder
  - N. Substance use and addictive disorders
- V. Behavior modification and functional analysis of behavior
- VI. Cognitive behavioral strategies and evidence-based practices
- VII. Person-centered strategies
- VIII. Family engagement, intervention, and therapy
- IX. Strengths and limitations of pharmacotherapy with children and adolescents

### **Course Requirements**

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

### **Grading/exams**

A minimum of two examinations

A minimum of two case study analyses, minimum 3 pages in length each

Written Assignments: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources.

### **Other course information**

This course serves as a requirement in the Adolescent Behavioral Health Counseling and At-Risk Youth Certificate programs, and as an elective in the Human Services Counseling degree program.