Fall 2010-Spring 2011

This SSIR program examines childhood development and the evolution of public policies intended to safeguard and improve children's physical health, educational opportunities, and general welfare in the U.S. The program also examines issues related to the mental health of children, adolescents and young adults. Because of changes in juvenile justice to compulsory K-12 education, mandatory immunization and vaccination policies, Head Start, SCHIP (the States’ Children Health Insurance Program), No Child Left Behind (NCLB), preschool, Nickelodeon, PBS, the Internet, child-focused corporate advertising and an array of other public and private programs and policies that have proliferated in the U.S. since the arrival of the post-war “Baby-Boom” generation, over the past several decades children have become a top political priority and for many, arguably, a national obsession. Consequently, “childhood” has become one of the most fought over and researched areas of medicine, public policy and the social sciences. The program is particularly well-suited for students with an interest in child psychology, public policy, and mental health policy, diagnosis and treatment. The course will include clinical, developmental, and public policy readings and assignments. It includes a trip to at least New York City over Fall break to learn more about charter schools and other organizations designed to help children.

Instructors: Catherine Bagwell, Psychology Department
            Rick Mayes, Political Science Department

SSIR Program Information and Application Process

This year-long program (fall 2010-spring 2011) is only open to sophomores. Students participating in the program will live together in the Lakeview residence hall and take a 1.0 unit course in the fall 2010 semester. They will also work together on a 0.5 unit team research project in the spring 2011 semester. Applications will be due by early February (2010). Interviews of select 1st year applicants will be conducted by Professors Bagwell and Mayes. Final decisions for admission to the program will be made in late February, prior to normal course and housing registration. Any questions and/or if you're interested in applying, email Dr. Bagwell (cbagwell@richmond.edu) or Dr. Mayes (bmayes@richmond.edu)