

FXB Center for Health & Human Rights Center at Harvard University

Child Protection Certificate 2025-2026 Academic Year



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for Health & Human Rights
at Harvard University

CHILD PROTECTION CERTIFICATE (CPC) PROGRAM

The François-Xavier Bagnoud (FXB) Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University offers Harvard graduate and postdoctoral students the opportunity to obtain a certificate in child protection. This interdisciplinary qualification is open to students from any Harvard graduate school.

Child protection work aims to prevent, respond to, and resolve abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence experienced by children in domestic and international settings. It is informed by a rights-based approach rooted in the principles articulated in the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Effective child protection requires an interdisciplinary and multisectoral engagement involving a wide range of partners and encompassing work in health, education, social service, public policy and law enforcement.

The certificate program incorporates ongoing child protection research and practice grounded in field-based realities. It is guided by the expertise of UNICEF, a university-wide faculty steering committee, and external child protection experts.

With this comprehensive graduate-level training, certificate recipients will be equipped to:

- Identify relevant social, economic, legal, and cultural issues affecting the protection of children
- Build a strong child protection evidence base by engaging in rigorous research, monitoring, evaluation, and use of data
- Understand the multiple interactions at policy, community, family, and individual levels needed to create a protective environment for children
- Gain the competencies to develop cross-sectoral partnerships necessary for a holistic child protection system

CPC CURRICULUM



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The CPC curriculum is composed of courses selected from across Harvard's graduate programs and covers five domains of child protection:

CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS

- Law and policy
- Systems capacity and integration
- Data/statistics
- Birth registration

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

- Protection from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect
- Protection in emergencies
- Impact of racism, stigma, violence on children

JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

- Children in Contact with the Law: family court; foster care; criminal witness
- Children in Conflict with the Law: Detention/Diversion

SOCIAL CHANGE/FAMILY STRENGTHENING

- Social Protection
- Social inclusion/non-discrimination
- Cultural and social norms/social change

CHILD PROTECTION LEADERSHIP TOOLS

- Leadership
- Negotiation
- Advocacy

For course offerings, visit:

<https://fxb.harvard.edu/child-protection-curriculum/>

CPC 2025-2026 REQUIREMENTS

SEMINAR REQUIREMENT

Participation in a one-semester, non-credit child protection mandatory seminar series is required. This will take place during the spring semester.

The seminar series will enable candidates to consolidate their understanding of the child protection field in both the domestic and international arenas through exchange with invited expert speakers and mentorship by senior child protection practitioners. Students will be encouraged to share their own child protection research and experience and engage with their peers. See website for timing details.

COURSE REQUIREMENT

Completion of 12 credits selected from CPC course offerings in at least three of the curriculum's five domains.



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APPLICATION PROCESS

2025-2026 CPC program candidates are required to complete a short application form, which includes an essay and a list of the qualifying CPC courses the applicant proposes to enroll in.

The application form can be found online at: fxb.harvard.edu/child-protection-curriculum

Applications will be reviewed by the FXB Child Protection Certificate Program Director, in consultation with the faculty steering committee. Qualified candidates may receive early admission on a rolling basis while all applicants will be notified of their status by the end of October at the latest. The program will continue accepting applications until it reaches a total enrollment of 30 students. Interested candidates are encouraged to apply early to maximize their chances of timely consideration.

PROGRAM COMPLETION

Prior to graduation, candidates will submit an approval request, detailing their completion of the requirements and providing a statement describing their program of study.

The program director and committee will review the approval request and the student's transcript. Approved candidates will be invited to attend the program's annual spring awards ceremony, where they will receive their certificates, successfully marking completion of the program.



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