The Department of Human Development is excited to announce that it is now offering a one-year Master of Arts degree in Human Development. In addition to offering the Master’s degree as a preliminary to more advanced graduate work for students who have already been admitted to the Ph.D. program, the Department of Human Development is now offering a Master’s degree that can be treated as an extension of a four-year undergraduate degree or that can stand alone.

The M.A. degree requires a total of 30 credit hours. The credit hours must include at least two formal courses in each semester, with the remaining credit hours devoted to either supplemental course work or research participation or a combination of both. Each student’s progress is supervised by a Special Graduate Committee composed of two faculty members to be chosen by the student from among Human Development graduate field faculty who have compatible interests. Because this is a two semester program, we accept students only if there is a graduate faculty member available to mentor them. To see if there is a faculty member whose research interests are compatible with yours, please read the biographical statements at http://www.human.cornell.edu/hd/people/index.cfm If you do find a faculty member with compatible research interests, please feel free to contact the faculty member directly. In addition to completing 30 credit hours, each MA student must also submit a written empirical thesis. The thesis can include, but is not limited to, extending an empirical honor’s thesis written while being involved in a faculty member’s lab, conducting an empirical research project, or conducting an empirical evaluation of a program. The specific courses, the type of research undertaken, and the content of the final thesis are decided jointly by the student and the Special Committee. Neither the Department nor individual faculty will be able to fund students (by providing tuition, insurance, or a teaching or research assistantship) during the one-year Master’s program. Students can treat the Master’s degree as an opportunity to gain additional research experience and to burnish their credentials in a way that will make them more competitive in the workforce or that will prepare them to apply for further study for a Ph.D. in departments of Human Development, in Psychology, Sociology, and in related disciplines such as Public Policy, Nutrition, Law, Education, Medicine, or Public Health, where some knowledge of human development is professionally useful.

To apply, simply use the current Cornell University Graduate School application form (online at: http://www.gradschool.cornell.edu/index.php?p=102). Two letters of recommendation and GRE scores are required. Note that applications to the Master’s program in Human Development will be reviewed continuously; however, it is strongly recommended that prospective students apply by May 1st for Fall admission and October 1st for Spring admission.