

Family Studies and Human Development

Introduction

Master of Science Degree The Family Studies and Human Development program is intended for individuals with a strong interest in the study of family and human development. The focus of the program is the development of the individual across the lifespan with an emphasis on family system processes and relationships. The program offers flexibility in the elective courses so students in consultation with the program director can build a plan that is compatible with their own interests and career goals. The department offers coursework and faculty expertise in gerontology, work/family issues, family policy, family resource management, child and adolescent development, family stress and abuse, and program planning.

The program provides students the opportunity to learn with a cohort of students. Cohort groups will learn and study together as they complete the six required courses. Required courses will combine on-campus and e-learning methodologies. Content and delivery of coursework is related to the following objectives:

- ▶ Provide career preparation by challenging and assisting students in developing innovation leadership skills in family studies and human development related careers.
- ▶ Increase the graduate student's capacity for independent action in scholarly and professional pursuits.
- ▶ Develop an in-depth knowledge built on undergraduate work and experience.
- ▶ Motivate students to survey family studies and human development related literature and apply this knowledge to practical, theoretical and academic problems.
- ▶ Provide students with skills in conducting independent and creative research.

Primary Evaluation Processes

The primary processes used to evaluate program and academic progress include course grades, research evaluation, certification of program completion, and the following program specific processes: program application; student advisement; residency; program plan; degree candidacy; and intent to graduate.

Admission

To be admitted with full status to this program, the applicant must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college and have an overall grade point average of at least 2.75. Applicants with an overall grade point average of 2.5 to 2.75 may be considered for probationary admission. This bachelor's degree will generally have been earned in the major areas of home economics.

Requirements

The requirements for this degree include completion of at least 30 hours of graduate credit with an overall grade point average of 3.0 or better. A minimum of 15 credits must be in courses open only to graduate students—700 or 800 level. Students must be approved for degree candidacy at the appropriate time.

Professional Core

17-21 credits required

HDFS-704	Child/Family Services	2
HDFS-715	Theories of Family Processes	2
HDFS-728	Family Life Issues	3
HDFS-7XX	Theory Based Research Methods	3
HDFS-740	Special Problems in Family Life Education	2
HDFS-742	Lifespan Family and Human Services Seminar	3
HDFS-735	Problems in Family Studies <i>or</i>	
HDFS-770	Thesis in Family Studies and Human Development	2-6

Selectives

9-13 credits required

The student will choose the appropriate number of selective courses from the approved lists with faculty advisement.