

Kansas State Polytechnic: College of Human Ecology

Human Development and Family Science

Overview

This program focuses on the development of the individual in a family context. The program also emphasizes development of individuals across the lifespan. Courses allow students to examine issues such as:

- Processes underlying human development across the life cycle.
- Factors that enhance, support and/or impede the development of healthy interpersonal relationships (especially those within the family).
- The interactions among the individual, the family and the larger culture/society.
- Identifying and applying best practices when working directly with individuals and families, with particular attention to ethical guidelines and principles of the human services field.

Students learn to implement and assess programs and services designed to strengthen and enhance individual and family well-being. This program is recognized as an approved program by the National Council of Family Relations for the Certified Family Life Educator designation. This program is offered in three locations: on the K-State Manhattan Campus, the Kansas State Polytechnic Campus and online. Across all three locations, there are around 600 students enrolled in the program.

Professional options

The program is interdisciplinary and offers students a broad range of course work and experiences that allows graduates from this program to have a number of career options.

Careers

Graduates are prepared to enter the extensive human services arena — for example, youth, family, and community service programs;

Points of pride

Graduates of Kansas State University's family studies and human services program find work in a wide variety of areas, and they can follow career paths that take them around the world.

residential programs; the judicial system; Cooperative Extension; higher education; elder care facilities; religious institutions; human resources; and public health programs.

Graduate School

Individuals who complete a bachelor's degree in family studies and human services may also pursue graduate study in a variety of related academic disciplines, including

- Family studies
- Family life education
- Marriage and family therapy
- Life span human development
- Early childhood education
- Gerontology
- Youth development
- Personal financial planning
- Social work
- School counseling
- Counseling
- Law
- Occupational therapy
- Nursing home administration
- Curriculum and instruction
- College student development
- Human resources

Academics

Students must complete 120 hours of course work to graduate. Students who choose family studies and human services will have the option to select an area of concentration or complete an internship. The internship option includes a series of courses taken in the senior year emphasizing the application of course content to the "real world" of working with people.

The first course in the series is a one-credit class that focuses on building a professional identity (through in-class activities, personal reflection, and volunteering within the community). At the completion of this course, each student has made arrangements for his or her internship.

During the next semester (the final term of the degree), these students serve in a 320-hour internship — about 20 hours per week. One of the strengths of this internship program is that students have regular contact with both a campus and a site supervisor. The internship is taken simultaneously with a capstone course in which students integrate the knowledge they have built throughout their undergraduate course work with their current internship experiences.

Students who choose the non-internship option are expected to identify an area of concentration in which they will take at least 9 credit hours. Examples of area of concentration include psychology, sociology, gerontology, social work or women's studies. This should provide the necessary training and information to create a professional identity in order to work with a particular topic or population after graduation.

Certified Family Life Educator

Graduates of the family studies program who have completed all of the degree requirements are qualified to apply for the Provisional Certified Family Life Education designation administered by the National Council on Family Relations. Our program provides the necessary training to build competency in the 10 core disciplinary areas required to become a CFLE. By graduation, every student will complete a portfolio illustrating his or her experience and skills in all 10 CFLE content areas.

Required coursework

Human Development and Family Science, bachelor's degree

(120 credit hours)

Students who choose human development and family science may select either the internship option to become a Certified Family Life Educator or select an area of concentration from human development and family science, American ethnic studies, leadership studies, political science, psychology, sociology, gerontology, women's studies, social work or anthropology.

General requirements (40-41 credit hours)

Communications requirements (8 – 9 credit hours)

2	COMM 105	Public Speaking IA
	or	
3	COMM 106	Public Speaking I
3	ENGL 100	Expository Writing I
3	ENGL 200	Expository Writing II

Social science requirements (12 credit hours)

3	ANTH 200	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
3	ECON 110	Principles of Macroeconomics
	or	
3	ECON 120	Principles of Microeconomics
3	PSYCH 110	General Psychology
3	SOCIO 211	Introduction to Sociology

Humanities electives (6 credit hours)

Choose two of the following:

- 3 COT 150 The Humanities Through the Arts
- 3 ENGL 251 Introduction to Literature
- 3 ENGL 325 Literature and Technology
- 3 HIST 320 History of Technology
- 3 PHILO 100 Introduction to Philosophical Problems
- 3 PHILO 105 Introduction to Critical Thinking
- 3 PHILO 130 Introduction to Moral Philosophy
- 5 SPAN 101 Spanish I
- 3 SPAN 110 Conversational Spanish for the Workplace

Natural and physical sciences (7 credit hours)

One course must be taken in physical science and one in life science. One course must include a laboratory.

- 4 BIOL 198 Principles of Biology
- 3 CHM 110 General Chemistry
- 1 CHM 111 General Chemistry Lab
- 3 GEOL 100 Earth in Action
- 1 GEOL 103 Geology Lab
- 4 PHYS 113 General Physics

Quantitative studies requirements (6 credit hours)

- 3 MATH 100 College Algebra
- or
- 3 MATH 205 General Calculus and Linear Algebra
- or
- 4 MATH 220 Analytic Geometry and Calculus I
- 3 STAT 325 Introduction to Statistics

Integrative human ecology course (1 credit hour)

- 1 GNHE 210 Foundations in Human Ecology

Professional studies (64 credit hours)

Grades of "C" or higher and credit in HDFS 102 required.

Professional HDFS courses (40 credit hours)

- 3 ECED 310 Early Childhood
- 3 FNDH 132 Basic Nutrition
- 1 HDFS 102 Orientation to HDFS
- 3 HDFS 110 Introduction to Human Development
- 3 HDFS 301 The Helping Relationship
- 3 HDFS 302 Introduction to Human Sexuality
- 3 HDFS 350 Family Relationships and Gender Roles
- 3 HDFS 375 Introduction to Research Methods in Human Development and Family Science
- 3 HDFS 506 Middle Childhood and Adolescence
- 3 HDFS 510 Human Development and Aging
- 3 HDFS 550 Family Theory and Science
- 3 HDFS 552 Families and Diversity
- 3 HDFS 670 Working with Parents
- 3 PFP 105 Introduction to Personal Financial Planning
- or
- 3 PFP 310 Family and Consumer Economics

Professional electives (24 credit hours)

Select 12 credit hours in courses numbered 100 or higher from the following areas.

- American ethnic studies
- Anthropology
- Family studies and human services
- Gerontology
- Human development and family science
- Leadership studies
- Political science
- Psychology
- Social work
- Sociology
- Women's studies

And one of the two options below:

Option 1

- 3 HDFS 590 Capstone Experience in Human Development and Family Science

Select nine credit hours in courses numbered 300 or higher from one of the above areas.

Option 2

- 1 HDFS 579 Orientation to HDFS Internship
- 8 HDFS 580 HDFS Internship
- 3 HDFS 585 Profession Seminar in HDFS

Unrestricted electives (15-16 credit hours)

For more information about the family studies and human services program, contact:

Kansas State Polytechnic
Office of Admissions
2310 Centennial Road
Salina, KS 67401-8196
785-826-2640
polytechnic@k-state.edu

For more information about Kansas State University, contact:

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KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

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Post-Graduation Statistics
k-state.edu/postgrad-stats
ksdegreestats.org