Overview
Discover how individuals develop and change, and how family, community, and society affect human development with this Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS). Combining coursework and field experience in individual and family development across the lifespan, this human development and family studies major will prepare you for career opportunities in areas like early childhood services, adolescent intervention, programming for older adults, support for children and families in healthcare settings, and community outreach.

In addition to the core human development and family studies curriculum, you have five degree concentration choices for customizing this program to meet your needs. Concentrations are available in early childhood professions, leadership and entrepreneurial professions, pre-health professions, prevention and intervention sciences, and human development and family studies. You may choose to specialize in one or two of these concentrations, depending on your career goals.

An optional gerontology interdisciplinary minor can be added to further develop your understanding of the aging process and give you a specialized set of skills needed for a wide range of careers working with older adults and those with disabilities.

You can also choose to pursue early childhood Director Qualifications as part of this degree program. In choosing this option, you’ll work with your advisor to select electives that help you meet state requirements and prepare you to seek early childhood education credentials upon completion of the coursework.

HDFS graduates are also strong candidates for application to become Certified Family Life Educators, who focus on healthy family functioning within a family systems perspective. They utilize a primarily preventive approach to address societal issues within the context of family.

Delivery
Online

Credits
120 credits
Previous college credits must be transferred into the program

Tuition
$419 per credit; financial aid is available

Time Frame
Varies based on intensity of study and previous coursework.

Degree Awarded
Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies

Offered By
Department of Human Development and Family Studies

Learn More
online.colostate.edu/degrees/hdfs

Contact our Student Success Team to get started! (970) 492-4898 online.colostate.edu/contact
Minimum Admission Requirements

• Previous college credit must be transferred into the online human development and family studies bachelor's degree completion program, and minimum credits required can vary depending on previous coursework completed.

• 2.0 cumulative GPA (2.5 cumulative GPA preferred) from all coursework previously completed.

• Satisfy admission requirement in mathematics.

• High school graduation or equivalent.

Completion Requirements

• 120 credit hours.

• 42 upper-division credits (300- or 400-level) is required with a minimum of 30 upper-division credits earned at Colorado State University.

• The number of courses needed for completion of the program depends on the number of transfer credits awarded and their fulfillment of All University Core Curriculum and degree coursework requirements.

Curriculum

Required Courses

• HDFS 101 – Individual and Family Development
• HDFS 277 – Professional Skills Development I
• HDFS 310 – Infant and Child Development in Context
• HDFS 311 – Adolescent/Early Adult Development in Context
• HDFS 312 – Adult Development: Middle Age and Aging
• HDFS 334 – Parenting Across the Lifespan
• HDFS 350 – Applied Research Methods
• HDFS 477 – Professional Skills Development
• HDFS 492 – Seminar: Program Proposal Development

Two of the following three courses:

• HDFS 302 – Marriage and Family Relationships
• HDFS 402 – Family Studies
• HDFS 403 – Families in the Legal Environment

Field experience (choose one)

Your field placement must be taken in conjunction with HDFS 477 and permission is required to enroll. Once you have determined when you will participate with the help of your academic advisor, you can begin the internship application process. The field placement coordinator will contact you after you have completed the internship application to provide placement procurement and registration instructions.

• HDFS 488A – Field Placement: Childhood Education
• HDFS 488B – FP: Programming for Youth and Families
• HDFS 488C – FP: Child Life Allied Health
• HDFS 488D – FP: Programming for Adults and Later Life Families
• HDFS 488E – Field Placement: Leadership/Entrepreneurship

Concentration Coursework — 15 credits

Students must choose at least one, and no more than two, concentrations based on interest and career aspirations. Of the required 15 credits, a minimum of nine must be HDFS courses. A minimum of 12 credits must be upper-division (300- to 400-level). Courses from one concentration cannot be applied to a second concentration.

• Human Development and Family Studies Concentration
• Early Childhood Professions Concentration
• Pre-Health Professions Concentration
• Prevention and Intervention Science Concentration
• Leadership and Entrepreneurial Professions Concentration

You can also choose to pursue a gerontology minor and/or early childhood Director Qualifications. If you are transferring courses into the program or find other CSU courses that are more appropriate to your career goals, please speak to your advisor about substituting courses. Keep in mind that 30 upper division credits must be completed through CSU coursework.