

Child Development & Family Relations Student Learning Outcomes

Program Goals and Overview

The Child Development and Family Relations major prepares professionals to work with children and families in a variety of rewarding and challenging careers. The bachelor's degree program offers the opportunity to specialize in early childhood or individual and family development to meet specific career interests, such as early childhood education, family planning, employment assistance, gerontology, intervention programs, social service and community programs. Students study the growth and development of individuals in the contexts of schools, communities and families. Study may focus on individuals at various times in the lifespan (e.g., early childhood, adolescence, adulthood) with special attention to the family context. The family, itself, is studied in its various forms (e.g., single parent families, two parent families, foster families).

The curriculum meets the rigorous standards and requirements of the National Council on Family Relations' Certified Family Life Educator designation. This approval enables graduates to quickly complete the application process for Certified Family Life Educator status. The undergraduate degree is also an excellent springboard for advanced study.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Students in our programs have the option to pursue multiple pathways to obtain their degree in Child and Family Studies; however, on completion all students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of development across the life span.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the multiple influences on individual and family development.
3. Demonstrate the ability to evaluate and apply research and theory to practice and policy.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity within and across families and cultures.
5. Demonstrate professional skills in their field experience (e.g., teaching, administration, program development and evaluation, research, case management, parent-child education, home economics, curriculum development).

Assessment

Our program conducts annual assessments of courses, students, and capstone experiences.

Student Evaluation

Our students are evaluated prior to program entry to ensure they meet entrance requirements, and at exit to ensure they have met all requirements at an acceptable level of performance. Students admitted to the program are assigned a faculty advisor whom they meet with twice a year (minimally) for course advisement, program progress check, academic performance review, and any concerns or questions that may arise.

Course Evaluation

Students' performance is tracked in all courses across all instructors to ensure performance requirements are met. Each instructor is evaluated and each instructor's syllabus is reviewed to ensure it complies with program, college and university requirements, as well as NCFR's CFLE requirements (for those courses approved for that track). The SLOs are assessed across the scope of courses in HDFS and all syllabi must include SLOs and assessments tied to the identified SLOs for the course.

Supervisor Evaluation

All of our graduates complete a capstone experience (e.g., working in a community service agency or student teaching) in their final semester. Their internship or student teaching supervisor evaluates each student and these results are shared with the program coordinator and faculty advisors.

(Updated: May 2020)