

## College of Human Ecology

## Human Development and Family Science

**Overview**

The Human Development and Family Science program at Kansas State University focuses on the development of the individual across a lifespan in a family context. 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 offered on the Manhattan campus, the Polytechnic campus and online.

**Professional options**

The HDFS program is interdisciplinary and offers a broad range of coursework and experiences that prepares students for a wide variety of career options, as well as graduate and professional school options.

**Points of pride**

Kansas State University human development and family science graduates are in high demand, and our students follow career paths that take them all around the world.

**Careers**

Graduates are prepared to enter a variety of careers in the human services field. For example, youth, family and community service programs; residential programs; the judicial system; cooperative extension; higher education; elder care facilities; religious institutions; human resources; and public health programs.

**Academics**

Students must complete 120 credit hours to graduate. A sample of professional courses includes:

- Introduction to Human Development
- Family Relationships and Gender Roles
- Introduction to Human Sexuality
- The Helping Relationship
- Personal Financial Planning
- Families and Diversity
- Working with Parents

Students who choose human development and family science 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 that applies course content to the reality of working with people.

Students who choose the non-internship option identify an area of concentration in which they will take at least 9 credit hours. Examples of concentration include psychology; sociology; gerontology; social work; or gender, women and sexuality studies. This provides the necessary training and information to work with a particular topic or population after graduation.

Additionally, elective internship options are available for students in either option.

**Certified Family Life Educator**

Graduates of the program who have completed all of the degree requirements and the internship are qualified to apply for the Provisional Certified Family Life Education, or CFLE, designation, which is administered by the National Council on Family Relations.

**Preparation**

High school students considering a career involving making a difference in the lives of others should be academically well-rounded and enjoy working with people. Students who meet the Kansas high school graduation requirements are prepared to enter the human development and family science program at K-State.

**Graduate School**

Individuals who complete a bachelor's degree in HDFS also may pursue graduate study in a variety of related academic disciplines, including:

- Applied family science
- 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.

**Activities****HDFS Student Association**

The HDFS Student Association is a student-led organization designed to provide HDFS students with leadership, community service and opportunities to learn about careers, internships and graduate school.

**Admission**

Incoming students apply to K-State through the general university admissions process. Students may apply online to the university at [k-state.edu/admissions/apply](http://k-state.edu/admissions/apply).

**For more information about human development and family science, contact:**

School of Family Studies and Human Services  
College of Human Ecology  
Kansas State University  
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1324 Lovers Lane  
Manhattan, KS 66506-1403  
785-532-5510  
familyscience@k-state.edu  
he.k-state.edu/fshs/academics/hdfs

**For information about transferring course work from other institutions, contact:**

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College of Human Ecology  
Kansas State University  
119 Justin Hall  
1324 Lovers Lane  
Manhattan, KS 66506-1401  
785-532-5500  
Fax: 785-532-5504  
ktpence@k-state.edu

**For more information about Kansas State University, contact:**

Office of Admissions  
Kansas State University  
119 Anderson Hall  
919 Mid-Campus Drive North  
Manhattan, KS 66506-0102  
1-800-432-8270 (toll free) or  
785-532-6250  
k-state@k-state.edu  
k-state.edu/admissions

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**UNIVERSITY**

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