

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES - M.A.

College of Education Health and Human Services

School of Lifespan Development and Educational Sciences
405 White Hall
Kent Campus
330-672-2294
www.kent.edu/ehhs/ldes

Description

The Master of Arts degree in Human Development and Family Studies provides students with advanced knowledge in the fields of family sciences and human development and the opportunity to develop multidisciplinary research and community outreach skills.

Coursework enables students to apply to become Certified Family Life Educators. Courses focus on current research and practice in human development and family studies with an emphasis on family theories and processes; family life education; the reciprocal influences of family, school, work and community contexts; development across the lifespan; and the strengths and needs of diverse populations.

The program emphasizes both basic and applied research. Student participation in interdisciplinary research and community outreach projects is encouraged. Graduates are prepared for leadership and teaching positions in the social services, junior and community colleges and cooperative extension and/or for pursuing doctoral-level study.

Fully Offered At:

- Kent Campus

Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university for unconditional admission
- Minimum 3.000 undergraduate GPA on a 4.000 point scale for unconditional admission
- Official transcript(s)
- Goal statement
- Three letters of recommendation
- English language proficiency - all international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions) by earning one of the following:
 - Minimum 550 TOEFL PBT score (paper-based version)
 - Minimum 79 TOEFL IBT score (Internet-based version)
 - Minimum 77 MELAB score
 - Minimum 6.5 IELTS score
 - Minimum 58 PTE score

For more information about graduate admissions, please visit the Graduate Studies admission website. For more information on international admission, visit the Office of Global Education's admission website.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Identify physical, intellectual, emotional and social dimensions of human life within their respective disciplines.
2. Identify ways to contribute to quality of human life within their respective disciplines.
3. Participate in quality developmental and family research and outreach within their respective disciplines.
4. Identify practical implications of human development and family relationship concepts.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of program development, delivery and evaluation pertaining to human development and family relationships.
6. Access scholarly sources of information and critically evaluate the quality of empirical research pertaining to human development and family relationships.
7. Demonstrate an understanding of theories, methods and principles of research pertaining to human development and family relationships.
8. Effectively communicate their ideas in oral presentations and written papers.
9. Demonstrate proficiency in developmental and family research methods and relevant statistical analyses.
10. Independently complete a master's thesis or master's project that reflects an understanding of the interrelationship between theory, research, and practice.
11. Recognize the unique strengths and needs of individuals and families.
12. Apply knowledge of human development and family relationships through involvement with and study of diverse domestic and international populations.
13. Identify opportunities to make a contribution in the field of human development and family studies.
14. Demonstrate knowledge of professional organizations in the field of human development and family studies.
15. Define a specific focus area of interest within the field of human development and family studies, and utilize course assignments and independent learning opportunities to develop and demonstrate expertise in this area.
16. Demonstrate leadership skills through participation in classroom learning activities and taking initiative for expanding one's own learning.
17. Identify opportunities for advanced training and certification in human development and family studies and related professions.
18. Identify opportunities for employment in human development and family studies and related professions.

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements		
EPSY 65523	LIFE SPAN DEVELOPMENT	3
EVAL 65510	STATISTICS I FOR EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	3
EVAL 65511	RESEARCH IN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	3
HDFS 64023	FAMILY THEORIES AND PROCESSES	3

HDFS 64024	FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION	3
HDFS 64026	PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES	2
Suggested Focus Area Electives, choose from the following:		9
ARCH 55640	DEVELOPING ENVIRONMENTS FOR OLDER ADULTS	
BSCI 50020	BIOLOGY OF AGING	
GERO 54030	ADULT DEVELOPMENT AND AGING	
GERO 61191	INTERDISCIPLINARY SEMINAR IN GERONTOLOGY	
HDFS 54020	ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT	
HDFS 54023	BUILDING FAMILY STRENGTHS	
HDFS 54028	PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS	
HDFS 54029	FAMILY POLICY	
HDFS 54037	POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT	
HDFS 54038	PROFESSIONAL CHILD AND YOUTH WORK PRACTICE	
HDFS 54039	BEREAVEMENT, TRAUMA AND OTHER LOSSES	
HDFS 54092	PRACTICUM IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES	
HDFS 64027	EARLY ADOLESCENCE	
PHIL 50005	HEALTH CARE ETHICS	
SOC 52010	DEATH AND DYING	
SOC 62877	SOCIOLOGY OF AGING AND THE LIFE COURSE	
Other related courses with approval of advisor		
Master's Project or Thesis Requirement		6
HDFS 61198	MASTER'S PROJECT ¹	
HDFS 61199	THESIS I ²	
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		32

¹ The master's project is intended for students who do not plan to continue graduate work beyond the master's degree, and provides the opportunity to approach research and theory in a more applied manner. The presentation and interpretation of original research is not required. However, approval of the intended project by the student's master's project committee is required, as is the successful completion of an oral final examination conducted by the master's project committee.

² The thesis is intended for research-oriented students and is designed to provide the opportunity to conduct original research. Approval of a thesis proposal by the student's thesis committee is required, as is the successful completion of an oral final examination conducted by the thesis committee.