CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Admission Requirements

- Minimum GPA of 3.0 for four years of undergraduate study or 3.25 for the last two years of undergraduate study.
- Applicants to the Child and Family Development program with a 3.5 or higher undergraduate GPA are exempted from the Graduate Record Examination. For all other students completion of general Graduate Record Examination within the past five years preceding the application with the following scores: 147 on verbal, 141 on quantitative, and 4.0 on analytical writing.
- Three letters of recommendation
- Statement of purpose
- Resume

The graduate faculty of the Department of Child and Family Development may require an interview with any applicant.

Application materials must be received by March 1 for fall enrollment if applying for a graduate assistantship, and by October 1 for spring enrollment if applying for a graduate assistantship. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis for those not applying for a graduate assistantship.

Accepted students will be expected to comply with the following requirements:

- Complete the course of study with a minimum of 40 credits.
- These credits will include:
  - foundation courses to prepare for research in child and family development as an interdisciplinary field;
  - core courses in the area of specialty;
  - option electives and cognate electives, selected in consultation with academic advisor, from within department or in another discipline. These are chosen to strengthen student's professional goals.
- Pass a written comprehensive examination over major and minor areas after the completion of at least 19 credits of graduate work.
- Complete a master's thesis or a master's project. The thesis option involves the design and evaluation of original research in an appropriately related area commensurate with the student's background and area of pursuit. The project option involves the design, development, implementation, and evaluation of original and creative programs and/or resource materials. A written proposal for the thesis or project cannot be submitted until successful completion of the comprehensive examination.
- Apply for graduation upon successful completion of 24 credits of graduate study, the written comprehensive examination, and an approved prospectus or proposal for a thesis or project.
- Pass an oral examination covering the thesis or project report.

Program Requirements

Foundation Courses - 7 credits

- 3760:685 Research Methods in Family & Consumer Sciences (3 credits)

Core Courses - 15 credits

- 3760:602 Family in Lifespan Perspective (3 credits)
- 3760:605 Developmental Parent-Child Interactions (online) (3 credits)
- 3760:607 Family Dynamics (3 credits)
- 3760:610 Child Development Theories (3 credits)
- 3760:665 Development in Infancy & Early Childhood (3 credits)

Option Electives - 6 credits

Select 6 credits from the following courses with approval of advisor (if a course has been taken at the undergraduate level, other courses must be selected):

- 3760:501 American Families in Poverty (online) (3 credits)
- 3760:504 Middle Childhood and Adolescence (online) (3 credits)
- 3760:506 Family Financial Management (online) (3 credits)
- 3760:540 Family Crisis (online) (3 credits)
- 3760:541 Family Relationships in Middle and Later Years (3 credits)
- 3760:542 Human Sexuality (3 credits)
- 3760:546 Culture, Ethnicity & Family (online) (3 credits)
- 3760:548 Before & After School Child Care (2 credits)
- 3760:560 Organization & Supervision of Child Care Centers (3 credits)
- 3760:596 Parent Education (online) (3 credits)
- 7400:688 Practicum in Family & Consumer Sciences (3 credits)

Cognate Electives - 7 credits

Select 7 credits with approval of advisor from within the Department of Child and Family Development, or from a cognate area outside the department, or from a combination of the two.

Thesis or Project - 5 credits

- 7400:694 Masters Project (5 credits)
- 7400:699 Masters Thesis (5 credits)

Degree total: 40 credits