

About our Department

- › Our research focuses on dimensions of resilience and vulnerability. Research projects center on the human lifespan and lifecourse, multiple dimensions of family systems, including relationships and diversity, as well as numerous approaches to prevention and intervention.
- › We offer B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees. Optional undergraduate curricula include a Certified Family Life Educator or Child Life. Graduate options include Child Life at the master's level and Marriage and Family Therapy at the doctoral level.
- › HDFS faculty are involved in significant outreach and Extension endeavors, including those focused on healthy relationships, cognitive and emotional development in early life and building community capacity to support families.

About The University of Georgia

The University of Georgia (UGA), founded in 1785, is recognized as one of the nation's leading public universities. U.S. News & World Report's 2014 "Best Colleges" edition has The University of Georgia ranked 20th among public universities. Kiplinger Magazine ranks UGA 15th in its 2013 list of the "100 Best Values in Public Colleges." Total enrollment in Fall 2013 was 34,536 undergraduate and graduate students. There are 600 registered student organizations.



Department of
Human Development
and Family Science

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Our students work in communities across Georgia and the nation, promoting parent education, planning programs for youth, working in hospitals with sick children and helping families make choices that improve their lives.

Shaping Healthy Families

Students who complete one of our graduate degrees change the discipline. They are employed in colleges and universities, hospitals, government agencies, research institutes and in mental health settings. They conduct original research that shapes what we know about families.

Learning that Comes Alive

You will learn useful ways to think about families and their experiences. As an undergraduate, you will complete an Applied Internship and/or a Research Internship.

Your classes have service learning components, which place you into community settings and give you experience relevant to your future. As a graduate student, you will be involved in faculty research and will learn competencies enabling you to become a key contributor to the family science discipline.

Solutions for Improving Lives

Study topics that are significant and that will strengthen individuals, families and communities. The strengths of our program are in the areas of translational research which brings the best practices of research into communities and families. Our engagement in communities through service learning and internships helps you understand human development in context.

HDFS UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Human Development and Family Science

Supporting Families. Improving Lives.

As a graduate of the Department of Human Development and Family Science, you will have an advantage over graduates from other social sciences.

- All HDFS majors are required to complete an internship. Students are offered a choice of completing an Applied Internship or a Research Internship.
- All HDFS majors have the opportunity to engage with the local community through service learning or volunteerism.

Both of these elements of the HDFS major will enable you to gain valuable knowledge, build your professional network and add significant work experience.

Child Life Emphasis

The Child Life emphasis consists of completing core coursework at the University of Georgia during your first three years. You will attend Georgia Regents University in Augusta your senior year, where you will take courses in healthcare-related issues and work in a clinical setting.



HDFS GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Master of Science

You can earn a master of science with a general focus on human development and family science, or you may choose to follow the Child Life track, which is a two-year non-thesis option that includes an internship.

Doctor of Philosophy

You will demonstrate competence in acquiring, integrating and applying:

- substantive and theoretical knowledge of human development and family science;
- knowledge of and skills for conducting research on individual and family development and behavior; and
- skills for engaging with individuals, families and others in processes that prevent or solve problems and promote competence and well-being

Quantitative Methods Certificate

You may also complete the Quantitative Methods in Family Science Certificate, an 18-credit hour program designed to prepare you for employment in top-tier social and behavioral science organizations.

FACS Ed

Graduates of this program help prepare middle and high school students for careers working with children in childcare centers, schools and other settings.

Disability Studies Certificate

Earn an interdisciplinary certificate from UGA's Institute on Human Development and Disability, which exists to create opportunities that will improve the quality of life for people with disabilities and their families.

IHDD research is related to family strengths, early intervention, assistive technology, injury prevention, employment and community living outcomes.

Online Certificate in Child Development

Open to any UGA undergraduate, this program will teach you the many dimensions of child and adolescent development within the family and social environment.

