

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES: CHILD DEVELOPMENT, BS

The Child Development option within the Human Development & Family Studies (HDFS) major offers a focused study of human development and relationships during childhood. It includes foundational HDFS courses as well as specialized advanced courses and applied experiences that are focused on children's development and relationships.

The Child Development option within the HDFS major prepares students for a variety of careers related to the health and well-being of children and their families, including healthcare, mental health, family support services, public policy, and family law. The curriculum of the Child Development track also meets the requirements for pursuing professional credentials, such as the Infant Mental Health Endorsement®, an internationally recognized credential for professionals who work with infants, toddlers, and their families, as well as the Certified Family Life Education (CFLE) national credential provided by the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) and recognized in the U.S. and Canada for Family Life Education professions.

Students can take advantage of learning opportunities and paid internships offered by centers and initiatives in the School of Human Ecology (SoHE), including the Child Development Lab (<https://childdevelopmentlab.wisc.edu/>) (CDL), an onsite laboratory preschool supporting applied learning, research, and class observations, and the PELICAN Center (<https://humanecology.wisc.edu/pelican-center/>), an interdisciplinary coalition of students and professionals working to support children and families through early literacy, child health advocacy, and early relational health. Students who pursue the Child Development track are given priority for CDL and PELICAN Center internships, including those with partners like the Early Childhood Health Consultation and Reach Out and Read Wisconsin.

REQUIREMENTS

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Core requirements for the named option are below. Students should follow the curriculum requirements in place at the time they entered the major. This requirement list should be used in combination with a DARS report.

Code	Title	Credits
Foundation		
<i>Human Development in Context</i>		
HDFS 174	Introduction into Cultural Diversity of Families	3
Select one of the following:		3
HDFS 262	Development of the Young Child	
ED PSYCH 320	Human Development in Infancy and Childhood	
PSYCH 460	Child Development	

HDFS 263	Development from Adolescence to Old Age	3
HDFS 516	Stress and Resilience in Families Across the Lifespan	3
HDFS 345	Ecology of Child Health and Well-Being	3

Research Foundations

Select one of the following: 3-4

HDFS 425	Research Methods in Human Development and Family Studies	
PSYCH 225	Research Methods	
SOC/ C&E SOC 357	Methods of Sociological Inquiry	

Select one of the following: 3

SOC/ C&E SOC 360	Statistics for Sociologists I	
STAT 240	Data Science Modeling I	
STAT 301	Introduction to Statistical Methods	
STAT 324	Introduction to Statistics for Science and Engineering	
STAT 371	Introductory Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences	
PSYCH 210	Basic Statistics for Psychology	

Career Foundations

HDFS 253	Human Development & Family Studies Leadership Symposium	1
INTER-HE 202	SoHE Career & Leadership Development	1

Depth

Select 3 of the following courses: 9

HDFS 462	Infant/Toddler Development & Group Care	
HDFS 469	Family and Community Influences on the Young Child	
HDFS 471	Parent - Child Relations	
HDFS 650	Parent Education and Support Programs	
HDFS 662	Advanced Study of the Young Child	
COUN PSY 230	Race and the Developing Child	
CS&D 240	Language Development in Children and Adolescents	
CSCS 470	The Human Rights of Children and Youth: Global and Local Perspectives	
ED PSYCH 331	Human Development From Childhood Through Adolescence	
PSYCH 502	Cognitive Development	
PSYCH 503	Social Development	
PSYCH 510	Critical Issues in Child Psychopathology	
RP & SE 300	Individuals with Disabilities	
SOC WORK 462	Child Welfare	

Application

Career/Research Practice Focused on Birth-5

Select one of the following: 3

INTER-HE 601	Internship	
HDFS 592	Research Experience in Human Development and Family Studies	
<i>Capstone</i>		
Select one of the following:		3
HDFS 663	Developmental and Family Assessment	

Electives

Select courses to bring degree credit total to 120

Total Credits 38-39

Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
15		15

Total Credits 120

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

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This is a sample four-year plan for Human Development and Family Studies. We encourage all students to consult with their academic advisor to develop an individualized plan that meets their specific needs.

Freshman

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
HDFS 262, PSYCH 460, or ED PSYCH 320	3 HDFS 174 (Satisfies Ethnic Studies)	3
Communications A	3 INTER-HE 201 (or other Human Ecology Breadth)	3
Quantitative Reasoning A	3 Communications B	3-4
Science	3 PSYCH 202	3
Elective	3 Science	3
15		15

Sophomore

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
HDFS 253	1 INTER-HE 202	1
HDFS 263	3 HDFS 345	3
Humanities	3 Literature	3
Science	3 Social Science	3
Social Science	3 Science	3
Elective	2 Elective	2
15		15

Junior

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
HDFS 516	3 STAT 301, 371, PSYCH 210, or SOC 360 (Statistics - Quantitative Reasoning B)	3
HDFS 425	3 HDFS:CD Depth #2	3
HDFS:CD Depth #1	3 HDFS:CD Depth #3	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
15		15

Senior

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
HDFS Application #1 (Internship or Research Focused on Birth-5)	3 HDFS Application #2 (Capstone)	3
Elective	3 Elective	3