

PENNSTATE



The Pennsylvania State University

Human Development and Family Studies

Improving People's Lives . . .



Are you interested in working with people? In making a difference in people's lives? Then consider majoring in Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS). The HDFS major provides a foundation for students interested in working in a wide range of human services and with many different groups of people—from infants to the elderly—and with many different kinds of families. We prepare students to become leaders in human services, developing new models to prevent and treat social and mental health problems, and becoming advocates for new social policies and programs. An HDFS major is also excellent preparation for graduate and professional school education in many different fields and for a research career in developmental and family studies and prevention science.

WHAT IS HDFS??

Students who major in HDFS learn about the human life span from birth to old age. They learn about development and families from many different points of view—such as biology, psychology, and sociology. This integrative approach helps students learn about how to promote normal development, real life problems, and about the different types of interventions that are possible. The HDFS program at Penn State features many opportunities for learning, including research experiences with faculty and through an outstanding internship program. HDFS program has been rated for many years as the outstanding program of its kind in the country.



What can you do with an HDFS major??



Our graduates tell us that the major in HDFS has prepared them well for the workplace. They are generalists who can see the big picture, but they also have the conceptual and people skills that help them succeed in their jobs. To give some examples, one graduate has directed a project to prevent child sexual abuse. Another has worked in tenant relations for a large city. A third has counseled dying patients and their families at a hospice. Several own and direct daycare centers. One graduate is the chief administrator of the human resources program for a major international company. Many others work in nursing homes, preschools, family and marriage clinics, drug and alcohol treatment centers, and other health care facilities.

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