

# HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES, A.S. (ALTOONA)

**Begin Campus:** Altoona

**End Campus:** Altoona

## Program Description

This major integrates practical and academic experiences to provide the student with entry-level professional competence in the human service field. The objective of the major is to offer a general education background, a knowledge base in life span and family development, and a core of professional skills that may be applied in program planning and service delivery activities. The major is offered part-time, in the evening, and through independent learning.

### Adult Development and Aging Services Option

*Available at the following campuses: Altoona, Brandywine, DuBois, Fayette, Mont Alto, Schuylkill, Scranton, Shenango, World Campus, York*

This option is designed to prepare students for a wide variety of service roles in mental health facilities, nursing homes and other institutions for the aged, area agencies on aging, public welfare and family service agencies, women's resource centers, human relations programs, employee assistance programs and customer services and consumer relations programs in business and industry. An approved field experience in any of a wide variety of settings that serve adults, the aged, and their families, is required for this option.

### Children, Youth, and Family Services Option

*Available at the following campuses: Altoona, Brandywine, DuBois, Fayette, Mont Alto, Schuylkill, Scranton, Shenango, World Campus, York*

This option is designed to prepare students for service roles in preschools; day care centers; hospitals; institutional and community programs for emotionally disturbed, abused, or neglected children and adolescents; as well as a variety of public welfare and family service agencies. An approved field experience in a children, youth, or family services setting is required for this option.

### Early Childhood Care and Education Option

*Available at the following campuses: DuBois, Fayette, Shenango, York*

This option is designed to increase professional capabilities in child care training in regard to issues of quality, affordability, and accessibility of programming. The primary foci are on language, literacy, and science reasoning. In the coursework, there is a blending of theory and practice that requires experience in a group setting with young children. Courses concentrate on infants and toddlers as well as older preschoolers. Each course has a strong parent/family communications component and stresses observation techniques appropriate for assessing and evaluating the development of young children.

## What is Human Development and Family Studies?

The Associate in Science in Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) integrates practical and academic experiences to provide

you with entry-level, professional competencies in the human service fields. The Adult Development and Aging Services option focuses on the biological, psychological, and social development of adults and elderly persons, with special emphasis on the various contexts of adult development, including work and the family. The Children, Youth, and Family Services option is an ideal choice if you want to work with various age groups in centers, institutions, and agencies. The program's ultimate goal is to improve the quality of planned services for families from varied backgrounds and community settings. For both options, HDFS students complete an internship at a human service organization in their community. Real world experience will help you build professional networks, establish references, and reflect on what you have learned in the classroom.

### You Might Like This Program If...

- You already work in a human service-related field.
- You aspire to work in human service-related occupations.

## Entrance to Major

Students must have a minimum 2.0 GPA to change to this Associate degree after admission to the University.

## Degree Requirements

**For the Associate in Science degree in Human Development and Family Studies, a minimum of 60 credits is required:**

Requirement	Credits
General Education	21
Electives	0-3
Requirements for the Major	51-55

**15 of the 21 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 6 credits of GWS courses; 3 credits of GS courses; 3 credits of GN courses; and 3 credits of GQ courses.**

### Requirements for the Major

To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn a grade of C or better in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44>).

### Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Prescribed Courses</b>		
CAS 100	Effective Speech	3
ENGL 15	Rhetoric and Composition	3
HDFS 395	Internship	6
PSYCH 100	Introductory Psychology	3
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
HDFS 129	Introduction to Human Development and Family Studies	3
HDFS 301	Values and Ethics in Health and Human Development Professions	3
<b>Additional Courses</b>		
Select one of the following:		3
BIOL 141	Introduction to Human Physiology	

BIOL 155	Introduction to the Biology of Aging	
BISC 4	Human Body: Form and Function	
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
SOC 30	Sociology of the Family (SOC 30 does not require a grade of C or better)	3
or HDFS 315	Family Development	
Select one of the following:		3-4
EDPSY 101	Analysis and Interpretation of Statistical Data in Education	
STAT 100	Statistical Concepts and Reasoning	
STAT 200	Elementary Statistics	
<b>Requirements for the Option</b>		
Select an option		21-24

### Requirements for the Option

#### Adult Development and Aging Services Option (21 credits)

*Available at the following campuses: Altoona, Brandywine, DuBois, Fayette, Mont Alto, Schuylkill, Scranton, Shenango, World Campus, York*

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Prescribed Courses</b>		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
HDFS 249N	Adult Development and Aging	3
HDFS 311	Human Development and Family Studies Interventions	3
<b>Supporting Courses and Related Areas</b>		
Select 15 credits in consultation with the adviser from University-wide offerings that enhance competence in the option		15

#### Children, Youth, and Family Services Option (24 credits)

*Available at the following campuses: Altoona, Brandywine, DuBois, Fayette, Mont Alto, Schuylkill, Scranton, Shenango, World Campus, York*

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Prescribed Courses</b>		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
HDFS 229	Infant and Child Development	3
HDFS 239	Adolescent Development	3
HDFS 311	Human Development and Family Studies Interventions	3
<b>Supporting Courses and Related Areas</b>		
Select 15 credits in consultation with the adviser from University-wide offerings that enhance competence in the option		15

#### Early Childhood Care and Education Option (24 credits)

*Available at the following campuses: DuBois, Fayette, Shenango, York*

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Prescribed Courses</b>		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
HDFS 229	Infant and Child Development	3
HDFS 230	Overview of Curricular Practices in Early Childhood Care and Education	3
HDFS 231	Guidance in Early Childhood Care and Education	3
HDFS 232	Creativity and Play in Early Childhood Care and Education	3

HDFS 233	Emergent Language and Literacy: Development and Practice in Early Childhood Care and Educat	3
HDFS 234	Mathematics and Science Reasoning: Development and Practice in Early Childhood Care and Educat	3
HDFS 311	Human Development and Family Studies Interventions	3
HDFS 330	Observation or Experience with Children, Youth, and Families	3

## General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all associate degree students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/associate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

### Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 3 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 3 credits

### Knowledge Domains

- **Arts (GA):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

**Note:** Up to six credits of Inter-Domain courses may be used for any Knowledge Domain requirement, but when a course may be used to satisfy more than one requirement, the credits from the course can be counted only once.

### Exploration

- **Any General Education course (including GHW and Inter-Domain):** 3 credits

## University Degree Requirements

### Cultures Requirement

3 credits of United States (US) or International (IL) cultures coursework are required and may satisfy other requirements

### Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

### Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 60 degree credits must be earned for an associates degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 60 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

## Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

## Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

## Program Learning Objectives

- Understanding of the complexity of individual and family development across the lifespan in diverse contexts and in changing environments.
- Evaluate and Apply Research and Theory to Practice and Policy.
- Ability to analyze processes, policies, and contextual factors that affect the delivery of human services to individuals and families.
- Professional ethical and culturally sensitive standards of conduct.
- Knowledge and competence in helping, leadership, and administrative human service skills.

## Academic Advising

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/>)

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## Career Paths

### Careers

With an associate degree in HDFS, you can work in the human services field, promoting health and preventing social and mental health problems for child, youth and families and adults and the elderly. You may also find employment in the following areas:

- medical case worker
- mental health worker
- case manager
- school support services
- medical and public health services
- substance abuse services

The associate degree in HDFS can also serve as a stepping stone to further education if you wish to work as a counselor or social worker.

### Opportunities for Graduate Studies

Many graduates go on to earn an HDFS bachelor's degree; some eventually enroll in graduate school.

## Contact

### Altoona

DIVISION OF EDUCATION, HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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<https://altoona.psu.edu/academics/associate-degrees/human-development-family-studies> (<https://altoona.psu.edu/academics/associate-degrees/human-development-family-studies/>)

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<https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/penn-state-online-human-development-and-family-studies-associate-in-science-degree> (<https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/penn-state-online-human-development-and-family-studies-associate-in-science-degree/>)

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