

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES, MINOR

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

What is Human Development and Family Studies?

The minor in Human Development and Family Studies helps you understand human behavior, learn how people relate to one another and learn how to make a difference in their lives. HDFS takes an interdisciplinary approach to helping you understand how individuals develop and change from birth to old age, how families and communities influence individual development, and how you can apply this knowledge to develop, implement and evaluate interventions designed to improve the lives of individuals and families. You will explore the biological, psychological, and sociological facets of life in order to learn how to develop, implement and evaluate interventions designed to improve the lives of individuals and families.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You want to understand how individuals develop and change from birth to old age, how families and communities influence individual development, and how to apply this knowledge to improve the lives of individuals and families.
- You plan to pursue a career in which knowledge about individual and family development can be useful, such as human services, health professions (speech pathology, occupational therapy, nursing, medicine) education and business (marketing, human resources).

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES (<https://hhd.psu.edu/hdfs/undergraduate/minor-human-development-and-family-studies/>)

Program Requirements

Requirement	Credits
Requirements for the Minor	18

Requirements for the Minor

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the minor, as specified by Senate Policy 59-10 (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/59-00-minors-and-certificates/#59-10>). In addition, at least six credits of the minor must be unique from the prescribed courses required by a student's major(s).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
HDFS 129	Introduction to Human Development and Family Studies	3
Supporting Courses and Related Areas		
<i>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 9 credits of HDFS courses		9
Select 6 credits of 400-level HDFS courses		6

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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World Campus

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Career Paths

Careers

The career paths of HDFS students vary, but generally, they fall into one of the categories below. Some jobs can be pursued with an HDFS minor, when combined with an appropriate major field of study, but others will require additional education, training or certification. See the more detailed career pages for each of the following career categories to learn more about how a degree in HDFS can support your career development plans:

- Social work, counseling and psychology
- Teaching and education
- Advocacy and non-profit work
- Business careers (marketing, development)
- Health careers
- Research

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES WITH A MINOR IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY

STUDIES (<https://hhd.psu.edu/hdfs/undergraduate/career-opportunities/what-you-can-do-hdfs-degree/>)

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

The HDFS minor, when combined with an appropriate major field of study, can provide useful preparation for graduate school in the social, behavioral, and health sciences. In recent years, HDFS students have pursued graduate studies in:

- Counseling (e.g., school counseling, counseling psychology)
- Social work
- Health professions (e.g., nursing, occupational therapy, medicine)
- Psychology and Human Development & Family Studies
- Elementary and Secondary Education
- Law and business

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (<https://hhd.psu.edu/hdfs/undergraduate/career-opportunities/what-you-can-do-hdfs-degree/>)

Contact

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Altoona

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

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