

# HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SCIENCES (MA, PHD)

The Department of Human Development and Family Sciences (HDFS) offers two graduate degrees: Master of Arts (M.A.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.). Students completing an HDFS graduate degree are predominantly pursuing a research-based degree, thus a research-focused M.A. (described by the Graduate School as the Plan A option) is the expectation. The M.A. degree prepares students to pursue a Ph.D. or work in non-profit organizations, foundations, state, local, or federal government, hospitals, and private corporations. The Ph.D. prepares students for research and teaching careers in human development, family sciences, and related fields such as psychology, education, sociology, anthropology, and social work or in leadership positions with non-profit organizations, private foundations, and local, state, or federal government agencies. The M.A. and Ph.D. degrees offer students the opportunity to focus on one of the following areas: Couple Relationships, Gerontology, Parenthood and Parent-Child Relationships, Health and Well Being, Prevention and Early Intervention.

## Master of Arts Requirements

Satisfactory completion of at least 30 credits maintaining a "B" average throughout the course of study.

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Master of Arts Required Courses</b>		
HDFS 5001	Orientation to Human Development and Family Sciences	1
HDFS 5003	Research Methods in Human Development and Family Sciences I	3
HDFS 5005	Qualitative Research Methods in Human Development and Family Sciences	3
HDFS 5215	Models and Concepts of Lifespan Human Development	3
HDFS 5310	Patterns and Dynamics of Family Interaction	3
or HDFS 5311	Theories of Family Development	
EPSY 5605	Quantitative Methods in Research I (or equivalent quantitative research methods course with approval of advisory committee)	3
<i>Select one Human Development course:</i>		
HDFS 5101	Infant and Toddler Development (Select one human development course from the following:)	
HDFS 5102	Early and Middle Childhood Development	
HDFS 5103	Adolescent Development	
HDFS 5240	Aging: Personality and Social Interaction	
HDFS 5248	Adaptation and Development in Adulthood	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>16</b>

In addition, all M.A. students must complete additional HDFS courses in their areas of specialization. Courses for areas of specialization can be fulfilled with HDFS courses or any related discipline area approved by the advisory committee. All students must pass a final oral examination.

## Doctor of Philosophy Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Doctor of Philosophy Required Core Courses</b>		
HDFS 5001	Orientation to Human Development and Family Sciences	1
HDFS 5006	Professional Development in Human Development and Family Sciences	3
HDFS 5215	Models and Concepts of Lifespan Human Development	3
HDFS 5310	Patterns and Dynamics of Family Interaction	3
or HDFS 5311	Theories of Family Development	
HDFS 5312	Diverse Families: Adaptations Across the Lifespan	3
HDFS 5340	Prevention, Intervention, and Public Policy	3
<b>Development</b>		
Select one of the following:		3
HDFS 5101	Infant and Toddler Development	
HDFS 5102	Early and Middle Childhood Development	
HDFS 5103	Adolescent Development	
HDFS 5240	Aging: Personality and Social Interaction	
HDFS 5248	Adaptation and Development in Adulthood	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>19</b>

Students are also required to complete methodology and specialization courses as listed below.

## Methodology Courses

Course	Title	Credits
Select 15 credits from the following:		15
HDFS 5003	Research Methods in Human Development and Family Sciences I	
HDFS 5004	Research Methods in Human Development and Family Sciences II	
HDFS 5005	Qualitative Research Methods in Human Development and Family Sciences	
Six additional credits from:		
EPSY 5605	Quantitative Methods in Research I	
EPSY 5607	Quantitative Methods in Research II	
Or other courses in qualitative, quantitative, and/or mixed methods with approval of advisory committee		

## Area of Specialization or Thematic Courses

Students fulfill the specialization requirement of 24 total credits with nine credits of HDFS courses (or any related discipline area approved by advisory committee), and 15 Graduate Dissertation credits (GRAD 6950 Doctoral Dissertation Research). The area of specialization requirement can include practicum experiences and/or apprenticeships listed below.

## Practicum Experiences/Apprenticeships

Credits determined by advisory committee from the list of courses below. These optional courses include some combination of teaching, applied research/policy, service/outreach, and basic research apprenticeships as appropriate for the student's plan of study.

<b>Course</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
HDFS 5010	Practicum in University Teaching of Human Development and Family Sciences	3
HDFS 5030	Research Practicum	1-6
HDFS 5088	Supervised Field Work in Family Development	1-6
HDFS 5099	Independent Study	1-6

### **Comprehensive Examination**

Ph.D. Students are required to complete a Comprehensive Examination, which consists of a comprehensive, critical review of the literature in a substantive area of the student's scholarly area of interest as articulated in collaboration with the student's advisory committee.

The programs are offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (<https://clas.uconn.edu/>).