

# HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SCIENCES (MA)

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 M.A. degree offer students the opportunity to focus on one of the following areas: Adulthood, Aging, and Gerontology; Child and Adolescent Development; Couples, Parents, and Family; Culture and Diversity; or Health, Wellbeing, and Prevention.

## Location

- Storrs Campus

## Modality

- In Person

## Requirements

Total minimum of 34 credits of graduate coursework, including nine credits of GRAD 5950 Master's Thesis Research. Students are also required to complete courses as listed below.

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Master of Arts Required Core Courses</b>		
HDFS 5001	Orientation to Human Development and Family Sciences	1
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	An Intersectional Approach to Individual and Family Diversity in the U.S.	3
HDFS 5340	Prevention, Intervention, and Public Policy	3
<b>Human Development</b>		
Select one of the following:		3
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	

In addition, all M.A. students must complete the following methodology courses: HDFS 5003 Research Methods in Human Development and Family Sciences I, HDFS 5005 Qualitative Research Methods in Human Development and Family Sciences, HDFS 5008 Quantitative Analysis for Human Development and Family Sciences, and 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 complete the degree through The Graduate School's Plan A option and must pass a final oral examination.

## Learning Objectives

1. Knowledge: Demonstrate appropriate breadth and depth of disciplinary knowledge and comprehension of the major topics, theories, and issues of the discipline
2. Applied skills: Uses, disaggregates, reformulates and/or adapts principal ideas, techniques or methods of the field of study ethically, professionally, and based on best practices of the discipline
3. Communication: Communicate proficiently and effectively to a specialist or non-specialist audience, verbally and in writing, a coherent argument or explanation summarizing aspects of the discipline