

**STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES IN**  
**HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & FAMILY SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**  
*www.messiah.edu/hdfs*

1. **MCFR (Messiah Council on Family Relations)** – MCFR, a professional student organization affiliated with the National Council on Family Relations, strives to provide professional development, and social networking opportunities for its members. MCFR fosters a sense of identity among students and faculty through sharing the common purpose of preparing ourselves to better serve individuals and families in a variety of contexts. HDFS and FCS majors are automatically members of MCFR, but students from other programs are encouraged to join. This student professional organization affords opportunities for leadership as well. Contact them at [mcfr@messiah.edu](mailto:mcfr@messiah.edu).
2. **Departmental Honors Projects** - This is an independent research program for students who have a strong academic record for four previous semesters of college study. Overall GPA of 3.6 and departmental approval are required for enrollment. Students in Messiah College's Honors Program can complete their required Honor's Projects through departmental honors. For more information talk to any HDFS faculty or visit our website.
3. **Conference Attendance** - The following are the family science conferences faculty and students have the opportunity to attend this year. For more information, contact Dr. Raeann Hamon, [RHamon@messiah.edu](mailto:RHamon@messiah.edu).
  - Mid-Atlantic Council on Family Relations, Spring <https://midatlantic.ncfr.org/>
  - National Council on Family Relations (NCFR), fall/November [www.ncfr.org](http://www.ncfr.org)
  - Pennsylvania Association of Family & Consumer Sciences, Spring [www.pafcs.org](http://www.pafcs.org)
4. **Faculty Research Projects and Presentations** - Students can work with interested faculty on their independent research projects. Students can often help a faculty member research information, write publications, and/or present at conferences. Check the website for a sampling of past student/faculty projects and presentations.
5. **Co-lead Family Life Education (FLE) Programs with Faculty** – From time to time, faculty will engage in the development and/or delivery of Family Life Education programs. In the past students have assisted with marriage preparation and enrichment programs in local churches and communities, as well as pre-marital programs for engaged or nearly-engaged couples. For more information, visit our website.
6. **Independent Study**- If there is an area of family science that particularly interests you; you can learn more through independent study. For more information, contact HDFS faculty members.
7. **Open Houses & the Diplomat Program** - The HDFS Department has 4-6 diplomats who attend preview days/open houses. share information about the department with prospective students, help potential students learn about the department (courses, faculty, career opportunities, etc.) and about college life in general in order to help them decide if Messiah University and the HDFS or FCS major are right for them. For more information contact Dr. Raeann Hamon, [RHamon@messiah.edu](mailto:RHamon@messiah.edu)
8. **Faculty Assistant Positions for the Department** - Work study students are assigned to a faculty member to assist them with tasks such as copying, filing, typing, doing research, drafting documents, and planning events. For more information, contact Debbie Chopka [Dchopka@messiah.edu](mailto:Dchopka@messiah.edu). Assignments for the next academic year are generally finalized in April.
9. **Smith Scholar Intern** - The Smith Scholar Intern Program funds highly qualified upper-class students to work in apprentice relationships with faculty members, assisting them with their research and professional projects. For more information, contact HDFS faculty members or visit our website.
10. **Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE)** - Students graduating with a degree in HDFS or FCS are eligible to receive the provisional Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) designation from the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) without having to take the exam. Certification recognizes a proven background in family life education and a thorough understanding of the skills necessary to enrich individual and family life. For more information, visit our department website.