



Why Major in Human Development and Family Science?

What is HDFS anyway?

The Human Development and Family Science major focuses on the development of the individual in the context of family and society, with particular attention to interpersonal dynamics. This dynamic program is designed to prepare students for professional careers in a variety of human service areas, including family life education; leadership roles in church, school, and community; personal roles in family living; and graduate school (in marriage and family therapy, family studies, seminary, counseling, or related fields). Key content areas include human development, sexuality, interpersonal relationships, courtship and marriage, parenting, internal dynamics of families, ethics, family diversity, and family processes such as communication, decision making, and problem solving.

Messiah College Human Development & Family Science graduates are eligible to become provisionally certified as a Family Life Educator (CFLE) through the National Council on Family Relations.

CFLE's incorporate a preventive and educational approach to individual and family issues. They seek to strengthen family life through a family perspective. **The numerous professional advantages of this credential are delineated at www.ncfr.org/cfle-certification**

What minors are available in the HDFS department?

A number of minors are offered within the Human Development and Family Science Department including:

Children and Youth Services, Disability and Family Wellness, Gender Studies, Gerontology, Human Development and Family Science, Multicultural Families, and Pre-Counseling and Therapy.

What opportunities are available in the HDFS Department?

- Honors Project for qualified HDFS majors
- Research with faculty
- Regional & National Family Conferences
- Involvement in the student professional organization, Messiah College Council on Family Relations (MCCFR)
- Internships (i.e. parent educator, gerontologist, crisis pregnancy counselor, eating disorder counselor, state correction counselor, adoption/foster care, or case manager intern)
- Cross-cultural courses
- Study Abroad Programs
- Messiah College – Philadelphia campus

What can I do with this major after graduation?

Graduates

Graduates from HDFS have obtained entry-level positions as:

- Family life educators
- Child life specialists
- Foster care or adoption case managers
- Program directors
- Youth services workers
- Crisis intervention specialists
- Residential counselors
- Developmental therapist
- Family preservation worker
- Family consultant
- Early intervention specialists
- Sexuality educators
- Domestic violence advocates
- **See Alumni Career Profiles on the Department webpage (www.messiah.edu/departments/family)**

Students who complete the HDFS program acquire a number of transferable professional and research skills including:

- APA referencing
- Professional poster design and construction
- Presentation skills
- Interviewing skills
- Use of assessment tools
- Critical analysis skills
- Observation skills
- Ability to work in a team
- Program development
- Tolerance and open-mindedness
- Genogram construction (e.g. family mapping)
- Conflict resolution/mediation

Graduates of the HDFS program have pursued graduate studies at the following institutions:

Drexel University	Pennsylvania State University
Shippensburg University	University of North Carolina
Syracuse University	Temple University
University of Maryland	Virginia Polytechnic Institute
University of Delaware	and State University
University of Connecticut	Bethel Theological Seminary
Fuller Theological Seminary	Northern Texas University
University of Wisconsin	Rutgers State University
Eastern University	Towson University

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