

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES, A.S. (ALTOONA)

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Altoona

End Campus: Altoona

Career Paths

The Associate's Degree in HDFS provides students with a valuable foundation of skills and knowledge for pursuing entry level positions in careers focused on helping promote health and wellness across the lifespan. Many graduates of the A.S. in HDFS program also continue to pursue their B.S. in HDFS. Our A.S. degree is designed to allow for a smooth transition into the B.S. degree, after which graduates are positioned for career advancement or to work in additional areas described in the B.S. degree. HDFS Students are encouraged to customize their degree to align with their career interests.

Careers

Students graduating with their A.S. degree in HDFS pursue a range of positions in areas that include:

- Health and Human Services (e.g. youth and family services, child advocacy, health education)
- Early Childhood Development (e.g. early childhood education, early intervention specialist)
- Child and Youth Services
- Foster Care and Adoption
- Services for Older Adults
- Services for Individuals with Disabilities

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES OF THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES PROGRAM (<https://hhd.psu.edu/undergraduate/internships-and-career-opportunities/career-areas-major/careers-human-development-and>)

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

After completing their associate's degree, many HDFS students go on to complete their Bachelor of Science degree in HDFS. This degree opens up opportunities for students to attend graduate research or professional programs in several fields, including:

- Counseling (e.g., addiction counseling, marriage and family therapy, mental health counseling, counseling psychology, educational and vocational counseling)
- Social Work and Public Health
- Clinical Health Professions (e.g. psychiatry, pediatrics, adolescent medicine, family medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, geriatrics, occupational therapy)
- Program Administration and Management
- Special Education
- Family Law

- Public Policy and Advocacy
- Research (e.g., on lifespan human development, psychology, sociology, prevention)

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (<https://hhd.psu.edu/hdfs/human-development-and-family-studies-graduate-program>)

Professional Resources

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in HDFS (<https://hhd.psu.edu/hdfs/about/diversityandequity/initiatives>)