

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES, B.S. (CAPITAL)

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: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Harrisburg

Program Learning Objectives

- **Understanding Development:** HDFS student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the complexity of individual and family development across the life span in diverse contexts and changing environments.
 - Summarize, critique, and apply theories and concepts related to individual and family development from a multi-disciplinary, life-cycle perspective;
 - Articulate how biology, psychology, and history influence diversity in individuals, and in family structures and functions in a social/cultural context.
- **Evaluate and Apply:** HDFS student will be able to demonstrate the ability to evaluate and apply theory and research to practice and policy.
 - Demonstrate an understanding of the contribution of original research in human development;
 - Integrate and apply the findings of empirical research within a theoretical framework to human development;
 - Explain the strengths and weaknesses of various research methods in assessing human behavior;
 - Apply research skills in order to better understand in the use of research in agency practice;
 - Explain the process of planning and conducting research, including the role of the IRB;
 - Demonstrate skills to analyze and interpret data;
 - Apply theories to identify and resolve problems.
- **Analyze:** HDFS students will demonstrate the ability to analyze processes, policies, and contextual factors that affect the delivery of human services to individuals and families.
 - Demonstrate knowledge of history and policies for ethical conduct in the delivery of human services;
 - Examine environmental factors shaping individual and family interventions (such as political, social, economic, cultural, and technological);
 - Demonstrate an understanding of community-based programs and services;
 - Understand and articulate individual and family needs and roles of human service organizations in fulfilling those needs;
 - Demonstrate knowledge of HIPAA regulations;
 - Develop a working knowledge of and ability to evaluate community-based programs and services.
- **Ethics and Cultural Sensitivity:** HDFS students will demonstrate professional ethical and culturally sensitive standards of conduct.
 - Articulate understanding of theories, skills, and competencies of an effective helper;
 - Demonstrate knowledge of the main ethical, legal, clinical, professional and personal issues and challenges involved in the helping professions;
 - Demonstrate knowledge of informed consent for working with diverse groups of clients;
 - Understand and apply ethical decision making models;
 - Understanding how personal values and experiences influence one's ability to make professional decisions;
 - Recognize stereotypical and prejudicial language and attitudes and their impact on the helping relationship.
- **Knowledge and Competence:** HDFS students will demonstrate knowledge and competence in helping, leadership, and administrative skills for human services.
 - Demonstrate knowledge about human resources in management and how to apply appropriate practices;
 - Demonstrate professional written, oral, and technology-based communication skills;
 - Demonstrate clinical and/or administrative abilities human service professionals must utilize in their practice with clients. Skill areas to be focused upon include assessment, referral, intervention, and administrative skills;
 - Identify the different organizational needs of public, private-for-profits, and private-not-for-profit agencies;
 - Translation of content knowledge to practical settings.