

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

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: University Park, World Campus

Career Paths

Demand for HDFS graduates is strong because the major provides students with a valuable foundation for understanding important social trends and guides students to develop the knowledge and skills to positively impact individuals, families, and communities. HDFS Students can customize their degree to align with career interests. HDFS students specialize through minors, certificates and credit-based hands-on learning opportunities.

HDFS students complete a capstone experience customized to their interests and designed to enhance their qualifications. Capstones include approved internships, guided research experiences, or advanced courses. The HDFS department capstone program provides:

- A capstone preparation class to help students explore interests, identify opportunities, and submit professional applications - and -
- Experienced capstone coordinators to help students get the most out of the capstone experience

Careers

Many HDFS graduates go directly to the workplace based on their understanding of people, their knowledge of group dynamics, and their skills in training and in program development and evaluation. HDFS students pursue positions right out of college in:

- Health and Human Services Professions (e.g. youth and family services, child advocacy, health education)
- Early Childhood Development (e.g. early childhood education, early intervention specialists, applied behavioral analysis)
- Child and Youth Services
- Foster Care and Adoption
- Family Education and Intervention
- Services for Older Adults
- Services for Individuals with Disabilities
- Program Administration and Advocacy (e.g. volunteer coordination, program management and evaluation, human resources)

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

A degree in HDFS is also a great foundation for individuals who are interested in pursuing advanced professional training/graduate study in:

- 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

- Human Development and Family Studies Commitment to Diversity (<https://hhd.psu.edu/hdfs/about/diversityandequity/initiatives>)