

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES, B.S. (UNIVERSITY COLLEGE)

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: Brandywine, DuBois, Fayette, Mont Alto, Scranton, Shenango, York

Program Learning Objectives

Brandywine Campus

- HDFS students 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 individual and family structures and functions in a social/cultural context.
- HDFS students 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- HDFS students will demonstrate knowledge and competence in helping, leadership, and administrative human service skills.
 - Demonstrate knowledge of management in human services and how to apply appropriate practices.
 - Demonstrate professional written, oral and technology assisted communication skills.
 - Demonstrate clinical, interactional, and practical skills used in human service professions.
 - Identify the different organizational needs of public, private-for-profits, and private-not-for-profit agencies.

DuBois and York Campuses

- Understand the complexity of individual and family development across the lifespan.
- Evaluate and apply research and theory to practice and policy.
- Understand the processes, policies and contextual factors that affect the delivery of human services.
- Understand the professional, ethical, and culturally sensitive standards of conduct.
- Demonstrate knowledge and competence in helping, leadership and administrative skills.

Fayette Campus

- Understanding of the complexity of individual and family development across the lifespan 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 individual and family structures and functions in a social/cultural context.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- Interact respectfully with people of diverse populations at all times.
- Define diversity and the benefits of diversity as it relates to the human services fields.
- Conduct themselves successfully in interview settings whether as the interviewer or interviewee.
- Demonstrate knowledge of laws concerning confidentiality, professional boundaries, and sexual harassment within the human services field, especially laws related to HIPAA, licensure regulations, and FERPA.
- Demonstrate a strong work ethic in their courses and in the field.
- Communicate, verbally and in writing, in a professional manner at all times.
- Take responsibility for and accept the consequences for their actions.
- Demonstrate the ability to work collaboratively in teams or groups.
- Graduates can identify, access and utilize resources to better serve individuals, families, and communities at the micro and macro level.
 - Locate potential opportunities and develop high quality proposals to obtain funding from external sources.
 - Identify, locate, and access regional, national, and global resources for information, referrals, and assistance in performing their professional duties.
 - Locate policies, rules, regulations, and laws that impact their professional duties.
 - Explain the differences among profit, non-profit, and faith-based agencies and evaluate the relative credibility of those agencies.
- Graduates can use technologies necessary to perform professional duties efficiently and effectively.
 - Students will demonstrate a level of proficiency in email, web searches, presentation software, databases, publication software, library databases, statistical software, and word processing.
 - Students will recognize and effectively use appropriate software programs to more efficiently complete projects and assignments.
- Graduates will demonstrate strong verbal and written communication skills.
 - Students will demonstrate active listening skills and can construct effective questions to further explore issues and concerns.
 - Students will be proficient in APA style writing.
 - Students will be able to use proper grammar, sentence structure, accurate spelling, formal language, correct punctuation, coherent paragraphs, ... to write well organized and effective documents and professional communications.
 - Students will make effective presentations.
 - Students will construct effective arguments from multiple perspectives.
- Graduates will demonstrate personal and professional growth that leads to the ability to build and enhance skill sets.
 - Students will participate in professional development activities.
 - Students will demonstrate effective time management by completing all assignments and coursework by the assigned deadlines and attending class regularly.
 - Students will learn to recognize and deal with their personal issues and persist in their education and professional growth.

Mont Alto and Scranton Campuses

- Demonstrate an understanding of the complexity of individual and family development across the life span in diverse contexts and changing environments
- Demonstrate an ability to evaluate and apply research and theory to practice and policy.
- Analyze processes, policies, and contextual factors that affect the delivery of human services to individuals and families.
- Demonstrate professional, ethical, and culturally sensitive standards of conduct.
- Demonstrate knowledge and competence in helping, leadership, and administrative skills for human services.

Shenango Campus

- Graduates can apply theories and principles of human services to clinical and /or practice and research.
 - Explain and cite appropriate theories that can be applied to a given scenario.
 - Compare and contrast, and can explain the pros and cons of major theories in human services.
 - Construct appropriate treatment plans and/or make appropriate referrals.
 - Develop a coherent research question and construct an appropriate research design and methodology to investigate the question.
 - Interpret and critique research findings.
 - Apply research/research findings to inform practice.
- Graduates will demonstrate professional and ethical accountability in dealing with clients and coworkers.

- Students will identify their scope of practice based on their clinical limitations.