Graduate Degree Programs in Human Development & Family Studies

Graduate Majors:

Human Development and Family Studies, MS

Human Development and Family Studies, PhD

The Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) focuses on positive development and resilience of diverse children, youth, and families in everyday life contexts. Our doctoral concentration is interdisciplinary, drawing upon the canons of anthropology, economics, education, family studies, human development, psychology, and sociology. Further, we value qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methodologies.

Students who enter the doctoral program without a master's will complete one as the first part of their doctoral requirements.

Admission

Admission is based upon both academic record and the applicant's fit with faculty research programs. We examine grade point average (GPA), Graduate Record Examination (GRE, we will accept MCAT scores for Medical Scholar applicants) scores, letters of recommendation, and a personal statement. International applicants from non-English speaking countries must have an official paper Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of at least 103 on the internet based test. We will not admit anyone with a GPA less than 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. All applicants are required to submit official GRE scores (MCAT in the case of Medical Scholar applicants) and to have previous coursework in a relevant area of social or behavioral sciences. GRE, MCAT and TOEFL scores should be taken no more than two years prior to application. Our application deadline is December 15 for possible admission the following fall semester. We admit students for fall enrollment only. Please refer to our department website for further information.

Graduate Teaching Experience

We do not require our students to teach but recognize the importance of teacher development for their future marketability. Thus, we make teaching assistantships available and encourage students to pursue a variety of teaching experiences as well as mentorship from experienced instructors. We also encourage our students to utilize the variety of teacher training resources that are available across campus.

Faculty Research Interests

Faculty information is available on our department website at http://hdfs.illinois.edu/directory/faculty.

Centers, Programs, and Institutes

Child Care Resource Service (http://ccrs.illinois.edu/)
Child Development Lab (http://www.cdl.illinois.edu/)
Pampered Chef Family Resiliency Program (http://www.familyresiliency.illinois.edu/)
Family Resiliency Center (http://www.familyresiliency.illinois.edu/)
University of Illinois Extension (http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state/index.html)

Facilities and Resources

Bevier Hall
Doris Kelly Christopher Hall
Early Child Development Lab
Financial Aid
We are committed to funding all of our students who are making timely progress. The duration and amount of our commitment varies by program. Funding may include fellowships, research assistantships, and/or teaching assistantships. These opportunities typically include stipends and tuition waivers. In some cases, fees are also waived. All applicants are automatically considered for all department funding opportunities; there is no separate application process. Federal and state financial aid is completely separate from the support provided by our department. For information regarding federal and state financial aid, please refer to www.osfa.illinois.edu/ (http://www.osfa.illinois.edu/).