

PhD in Human Development & Family Studies (HDFS)

Degree checklist and recommended timeline for students who enter our program with a master's degree

If the student has a master's thesis it should be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies at the beginning of the student's first semester. If the thesis is not approved, or if the student has a non-thesis master's degree, then they are expected to complete a "thesis equivalency" by the end of their second year in the program.

YEAR ONE

Fall semester (13 hours)

- HDFS 500: Professional Development (1)
- HDFS 501: Human Development Theories (4)
- HDFS 590: Advanced Research Methods (4)
- HDFS 599: MS Thesis Research (4)

Spring semester (12 hours)

- HDFS 521: Family Theories (4)
- HDFS 582 or 591: Qualitative Methods (E or G) (4)
- HDFS 594: Intermediate Statistical Analysis (4)

YEAR TWO

Fall semester (12 hours)

- HDFS 597 or other Advanced Statistical Analysis (4)
- HDFS Substantive Course (2 or 4) _____
- HDFS Substantive Course (2 or 4) _____
- HDFS 599: PhD Thesis Research (0 - 4) _____

Spring semester (12 hours)

- HDFS 591: Qualitative Methods (E or G) (4)
- HDFS Substantive Course (2 or 4) _____
- HDFS Substantive Course (2 or 4) _____
- HDFS 599: PhD Thesis Research (0 - 4) _____
- Thesis equivalency should be approved by now

(Summer qualifying exam cycle if eligible)

YEAR THREE

Fall semester (12 hours)

- Qualifying exam (eligible after completing all theory & methods plus 2 Substantive Courses)
- HDFS 599: PhD Thesis Research (12) _____

Spring semester (12 hours)

- Preliminary exam (eligible after passing the Qual)
- HDFS 599: PhD Thesis Research (12) _____

YEAR FOUR

Fall semester (12 hours)

- HDFS 500: Professional Development (1)
- HDFS 599: PhD Thesis Research (11) _____

Spring semester (12 hours)

- HDFS 599: PhD Thesis Research _____
- Final defense and deposit of dissertation

The PhD Degree

The PhD consists of required courses (advanced statistics and two of three qualitative methods 582, 591E or 591G) plus 4 substantive courses, 2 HDFS 500 credits, and enough elective courses to reach the required 42 total coursework hours. In addition, the PhD requires 22 PhD thesis hours for a total of 64 hours.

Thesis hours help the student maintain full time status during the academic year as well summer. Although there is no limit to how many thesis hours a student can take, only 22 will be counted towards the PhD.

Substantive courses are 500 level HDFS courses that focus on a specialized empirical area (see list).

HDFS 450 and 550 are internship courses and thus do not meet the substantive requirement. They are recommended, and may be counted as electives.

No more than 8 hours of HDFS 598 may be used as elective credit.

Students who enter our PhD program with a master's degree typically do not need to take any elective courses. Students are allowed to take electives, but they may not be necessary.

HDFS Substantive Courses

HDFS 503: Social-Emotional Development
 HDFS 505: Advanced Adolescence
 HDFS 523: Ethnic Families
 HDFS 526: Intimate Partner Violence
 HDFS 527: Family Resiliency
 HDFS 528: Parenting
 HDFS 533: Community in American Society
 HDFS 534: Neighborhood and Human Development
 HDFS 540: Gender and Sexuality
 HDFS 561: Child and Family Program Development
 HDFS 562: Child and Family Program Evaluation
 HDFS 580: Survey Research Methodology Fundamentals
 HDFS 581: Participatory Research Methods
 HDFS 586: Health & Leisure in Recreation, Sport & Tourism
 HDFS 595: Seminar
 No more than 4 hours of HDFS 598 (readings course)
 Other approved 500 level substantive courses