MS & PhD in Human Development & Family Studies (HDFS)

Degree checklist and recommended timeline for students who enter our program without a master’s degree

YEAR ONE
Fall semester (13 hours)
- HDFS 500: Professional Development (1) (counted on PhD)
- *HDFS 501: Human Development Theories (4)
- *HDFS 533: Community in American Society (4)
- *HDFS 590: Advanced Research Methods (4)

Spring semester (12 hours)
- *HDFS 521: Family Theories (4)
- *HDFS 591: Qualitative Methods (E or G) (4)
- *HDFS 594: Intermediate Statistical Analysis (4)

YEAR TWO
Fall semester (12 hours)
- HDFS 597: Advanced Statistical Analysis (4)
- HDFS Substantive Course (2 or 4)
- HDFS Substantive Course (2 or 4)
- *HDFS 599: MS Thesis Research (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: MS Thesis Research (4)
- Deposit master’s thesis

YEAR THREE
Fall semester (12 hours)
- Qualifying exam (eligible after completing all theory & methods plus 2 substantive courses)
- Elective Courses
- HDFS 599: PhD Thesis Research

Spring semester (12 hours)
- Preliminary exam (eligible after passing Qual)
- Elective Courses
- HDFS 599: PhD Thesis Research

YEAR FOUR
Fall semester (12 hours)
- HDFS 500: Professional Development (1)
- Elective Courses
- HDFS 599: PhD Thesis Research

Spring semester (12 hours)
- Elective Courses
- HDFS 599: PhD Thesis Research

YEAR FIVE (12 hours each fall and spring)
- HDFS 599: PhD Thesis Research
- Final defense & deposit of dissertation

MS Degree Requirements
The MS consists of YEAR ONE required courses (24 hours, designated by an *) plus the master’s thesis (8 hours) for a total of 32 hours.

The master’s thesis should be deposited by the end of YEAR TWO.

The PhD Degree
The PhD consists of required courses (advanced statistics and qualitative methods E or G) 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 529: Youth and Family Acculturation
HDFS 534: Neighborhood and Human Development
HDFS 539: Youth, Culture, and Society
HDFS 540: Gender and Sexuality
HDFS 541: Inequalities In A Diverse Society
HDFS 543: Ethnography Urban Communities
HDFS 561: Child and Family Program Development
HDFS 562: Child and Family Program Evaluation
HDFS 595: Seminar
RST 594LH: Health and Leisure

No more than 4 hours of HDFS 598 (readings course)
Other approved 500 level substantive courses