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 Statistics (4)

YEAR TWO
Fall semester (12 hours)
- HDFS 592: Advanced Statistics (4)
- HDFS substantive course (2 or 4) ____________
- HDFS substantive course (2 or 4) ____________
- *HDFS 599: MS Thesis credits (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 credits (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 credits

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

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

Spring semester (12 hours)
- Elective courses
- HDFS 599: PhD Thesis credits

YEAR FIVE (12 hours each fall and spring)
- HDFS 599: PhD Thesis credits
- 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: Socio-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 & family acculturation
- HDFS 534: Neighborhood effects
- HDFS 539: Youth, culture, & society
- HDFS 540: Gender & sexuality
- HDFS 541: Social entrepreneurship in a diverse society
- HDFS 543: Ethnography of urban communities
- HDFS 561: Child & family program development
- HDFS 562: Child & family program evaluation
- RST 594LH: Health & leisure in rec, sport, & tourism
- HDFS 595: Seminar

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