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 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: PhD Thesis credits (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 credits (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 credits (12)

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

YEAR FOUR
Fall semester (12 hours)
- HDFS 500: Professional Development (1)
- HDFS 599: PhD Thesis credits (11)

Spring semester (12 hours)
- HDFS 599 PhD Thesis credits
- Final defense and deposit of dissertation

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 evaluation
- HDFS 562: Child & family program development
- 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