

Program Overview

The graduate program provides students with the knowledge and expertise to attain professional positions and advancement opportunities in programs serving families and children.

Application Requirements

Application requirements consist of institutional and program requirements for applicable semesters of entry during the current academic year. Additional information and changes to admission requirements for semesters other than the current academic year can be found on The Graduate College's website (<http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/>).

Unless otherwise noted on The Graduate College program page, AI tools can only be used to correct spelling and grammar errors in application materials.

Institutional Requirements

Institutional requirements are the minimum standards for admission to any graduate program at Texas State. These include:

- Completed online application
- Nonrefundable application fee
 - Degree Programs (Doctoral and Master's)
 - \$55 fee, or
 - \$90 for applications with international credentials
 - Post-Baccalaureate Programs (Certificate, Certification, Non-Degree, and Visiting)
 - \$20 fee, or
 - \$60 for applications with international credentials
- Official transcripts from each institution where course credit was granted. Final transcripts showing degree completion are required before the student may register for their second term of enrollment.
- GPA requirements (a higher GPA may be listed in the Program Requirements)
 - Doctoral programs require a 3.00 overall GPA or a 3.00 GPA in your last 60 hours (<https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/admissions/policy.html#gpa>) of undergraduate course work (plus any completed graduate courses).
 - Master's and Specialist programs require a 2.75 overall GPA or a 2.75 GPA in your last 60 hours (<https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/admissions/policy.html#gpa>) of undergraduate course work (plus any completed graduate courses).
 - Post-Baccalaureate programs require a 2.50 overall GPA or a 2.50 GPA in your last 60 hours (<https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/admissions/policy.html#gpa>) of undergraduate course work (plus any completed graduate courses).
- Baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited university. (Non-U.S. degrees must be equivalent to a four-year U.S. Bachelor's degree. In most cases, three-year degrees are not considered. Visit our International FAQs (<https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/international/faqs.html>) for more information.)

Approved English Proficiency Exam Scores

Applicants are required to submit an approved English proficiency exam score that meets the minimum requirements below unless

they have earned a bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited U.S. institution or the equivalent from a country on our exempt countries list (<http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/international/language.html#waver>). Some programs may restrict acceptable tests or require higher scores than the institutional scores; this will be noted in the Program Requirements.

- official TOEFL iBT scores required with a 78 overall if taken on or before January 21, 2026
- official TOEFL iBT scores required with a 4 overall if taken after January 21, 2026
- official PTE scores required with a 52 overall
- official IELTS (academic) scores required with a 6.5 overall and minimum individual module scores of 6.0
- official Duolingo scores required with a 110 overall
- official TOEFL Essentials scores required with an 8.5 overall
- official Texas State Intensive English Program score of 90% or higher in the highest-level course (level 5)

The institution does **not** offer admission if the scores above are not met.

- completed online application
 - \$55 nonrefundable application fee
- or
- \$90 nonrefundable application fee for applications with international credentials
 - baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited university (Non-U.S. degrees must be equivalent to a four-year U.S. Bachelor's degree. In most cases, three-year degrees are not considered. Visit our International FAQs (<https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/international/faqs.html>) for more information.)
 - official transcripts from **each institution** where course credit was granted
 - a 3.0 overall GPA or a 3.0 GPA in the last 60 hours of undergraduate course work (plus any completed graduate courses)
 - background course work
 - official GRE (general test only) required with competitive scores in the verbal reasoning and quantitative reasoning sections
 - resume/CV
 - statement of purpose (approximately 500 words)
 - three letters of recommendation

Approved English Proficiency Exam Scores

Applicants are required to submit an approved English proficiency exam score that meets the minimum program requirements below unless they have earned a bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited U.S. institution or the equivalent from a country on our exempt countries list (<http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/international/language.html#waver>).

- official TOEFL iBT scores required with a 78 overall
- official PTE scores required with a 52 overall
- official IELTS (academic) scores required with a 6.5 overall and minimum individual module scores of 6.0
- official Duolingo Scores required with a 110 overall
- official TOEFL Essentials scores required with an 8.5 overall

This program does **not** offer admission if the scores above are not met.

Degree Requirements

The Master of Science (M.S.) degree with a major in Human Development and Family Sciences (Non-thesis Option) requires 36 semester credit hours. Students who do not have the appropriate background course work may be required to complete leveling courses.

Course Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
HDFS 5341	Advanced Child Development	3
HDFS 5350	Research Design and Methods in Human Development and Family Sciences	3
HDFS 5351	Advanced Theory in Human Development and Family Sciences	3
HDFS 5352	Issues in Human Development and Family Sciences	3
HDFS 5358	Practicum in Human Development and Family Sciences I	3
Prescribed Electives		
Choose 21 hours from the following:		21
HDFS 5305	Foundations of Play	
HDFS 5340	Advanced Cultural Diversity of Families	
HDFS 5343	Child Life Specialist	
HDFS 5347	Grief and Bereavement in Children, Adolescents, and Parents	
HDFS 5353	Program Evaluation in Human Development and Family Sciences	
HDFS 5355	Advanced Independent Study	
HDFS 5356	Advanced Program Administration	
HDFS 5357	Comparative Studies in Child Development	
HDFS 5359	Practicum in Human Development and Family Sciences II	
HDFS 5660	Advanced Practicum	
SOCI 5323	Grant Writing for the Social Sciences	
SOCI 5370	Seminar in Sociology of Racial and Ethnic Relations	
SOWK 5323	Advanced Social Work Research	
Total Hours		36

Comprehensive Examination Requirement

Students pursuing the non-thesis option will be required to complete a written exam consisting of objective and essay questions that cover the core content areas required for their particular track. As a result, the comprehensive exam should be taken after the student has completed 18 hours of graduate degree credit AND his/her core course work over which the student will be examined (with a GPA of at least 3.0 and earn a B or better in the core course work). Students must sit for all four exams on their first attempt. After the first attempt students will only be required to sit for the exams which they have not passed.

The comprehensive exam will be held on the first Friday of March, June, and September on campus at a time and location to be determined. Students planning to take the exam must sign up online through the

google link located on the "Current students" page. Students will be given one hour to complete each section. There are a total of four sections.

Comprehensive exam questions are evaluated on both the quality and content of the response. Two faculty members evaluate the student's response to each comprehensive exam question. If there is disagreement regarding whether a response is acceptable, a third reader will read the response and make a final evaluation decision. The evaluation decision for each section is made independently of the other sections and can be as follows:

- P=Pass all components of the exam.

- CP=Conditional pass (At the discretion of the graduate faculty, the student must write a paper related to the content area that received a CP and/or orally defend his/her response; faculty determine whether the student writes a paper or orally defends his/her response).

- F=Fail (student who fails three or more sections of the exam must retake all four sections of the exam the following semester). Students can "retake" the exam only twice for a total of three attempts. If the student does not pass one or more sections on the third attempt, the student must re-take relevant coursework and pass with a B or better. The student must then petition the program graduate faculty and request to take an oral exam for the final attempt. It is at the discretion of the graduate faculty whether the petition will be granted. If the petition is granted, the oral exam will take place with a format as well as at a time and place to be determined. The student can only pass or fail the oral comprehensive exam. Students will not graduate from the program without passing all sections of the comprehensive exam.

Students must complete the comprehensive exam within five years of beginning the graduate program.

Master's level courses in Family and Child Studies: FCS (<http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/graduate/applied-arts/family-consumer-sciences/human-dev-family-sciences-nonthesis-ms/#FCS>), HD#HDFS (<http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/graduate/applied-arts/family-consumer-sciences/human-dev-family-sciences-nonthesis-ms/#HDFS>)FS

Family and Child Studies (FCS)

FCS 5101. Graduate Assistant Development.

This course is required as a condition of employment for graduate teaching and instructional assistants. This course provides regular in-service and planned periodic evaluations of instructional responsibilities. This course does not earn graduate degree credit. Repeatable up to 3 times.

1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Graduate Assistantship|Exclude from Graduate GPA

Grade Mode: Leveling/Assistantships

FCS 5301. Graduate Assistant Development.

This course is required as a condition of employment for graduate teaching and instructional assistants. It provides information about the educational needs of Texas State University's diverse student body. It also identifies educational strategies and campus resources that support the learning of undergraduate students. This course does not earn graduate degree credit. (MULT).

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Graduate Assistantship|Exclude from Graduate GPA|Multicultural Content

Grade Mode: Leveling/Assistantships

FCS 5302H. Sustainable Consumer Economy.

This course is a in-depth study of the role of consumption in the development of sustainable systems including the family, natural resources and economics.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Topics

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

FCS 5302J. Statistics and Data Analysis for Family and Consumer Sciences.

This is a graduate level course covering statistical techniques commonly used in the field of family and consumer sciences. Topics include descriptive statistics, Chi-Square analysis, analysis of variance and covariance, simple and multiple linear regression, logistic regression, and use of statistical software. Data analysis to support decision-making is emphasized. Restricted to students in one of the graduate FCS programs.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

FCS 5302S. Sustainable Textiles.

This course is an in-depth study of the relationship of fibers, fabrics, finishes and textile products end-uses with a particular focus on their impact on sustainability.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Topics

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

FCS 5305. Sustainable Housing.

This course is an in-depth study of the relationship between housing and sustainability with a particular focus on the role of materials, technology, policy and human factors in fostering healthy social, economic and natural systems.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

FCS 5307. Sustainable Lighting.

This course focuses on understanding the elements and principles of sustainable lighting and explains how it meets the qualitative needs of the visual environment with the least impact on the natural environment.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

FCS 5310. Research Methods in FCS.

This course will cover the evaluation of concepts, methods, and strategies for research in the disciplines of family and consumer sciences. The course will focus on the nature and ethics of scientific research, including design, sampling, measurement, and data collection. Restricted to graduate level majors in the School of Family and Consumer Sciences.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

FCS 5311. Statistics and Data Analysis for Family and Consumer Sciences.

This is a graduate level course covering statistical techniques commonly used in the field of family and consumer sciences. Topics include descriptive statistics, chi-square analysis, analysis of variance and covariance, simple and multiple linear regression, logistic regression, and use of statistical software. Data analysis to support decision-making is emphasized. Restricted to graduate students in FCS.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

FCS 5340. International Study in Family and Consumer Sciences.

Study of Family and Consumer Sciences topics in international settings. Emphasis will be placed on an analysis of cultural differences and similarities and their application within FCS professions. Repeatable for credit. (MULT).

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Multicultural Content

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

Human Development and Family Sciences (HDFS)**HDFS 5159. Internship in Child Life.**

This course is a structured clinical experience for individuals who plan to pursue a career in child life. Students are provided the opportunity to work in a hospital or community-based program setting under the direction of a certified child life specialist. Successful completion of a clinical experience under a certified child life specialist is required for all students pursuing application to the child life certification exam.

1 Credit Hour. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 38 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

HDFS 5199B. Thesis.

This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollment. The focus of this course is on data collection, analysis, and writing of thesis. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding.

1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

HDFS 5299B. Thesis.

This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollment. The focus of this course is on data collection, analysis, and writing of thesis. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding.

2 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

HDFS 5302A. Social Cognitive Development in Childhood and Adolescence.

This course addresses foundations and theories of social cognitive development of children and adolescence. Current research on social cognitive development is emphasized.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HDFS 5302C. Administration and Evaluation of Family and Child Service Programs.

This course focuses on the management and effectiveness of diverse family and child service programs. This course will include the following topics: management strategies, leadership skills, cultural responsiveness, program evaluation strategies and methods, fiscal management, and ethics.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HDFS 5302D. Advanced Theory in Family Sciences.

This course focuses on critically evaluating theoretical concepts and current research in family sciences. Recent trends in family theories, family structures, and transitions are emphasized.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HDFS 5305. Foundations of Play.

This course analyzes foundations and theories of play as it relates to the development of children. Course content includes medical play, play therapy, music therapy, art therapy, and animal therapy as they are applied in professional settings.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HDFS 5340. Advanced Cultural Diversity of Families.

This course focuses on cultural diversity with an emphasis on contemporary, culturally relevant responses to societal trends. Topics include a critical analysis of cultural competency, multiculturalism, and the strategies implemented to successfully engage in meaningful interactions at the community level. The course incorporates family science research methods to explore topics including family structure and function, family life patterns, multicultural groups, and agents of acculturation. (MULT).

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Co-requisite(s): MULT 5340

Course Attribute(s): Multicultural Content

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HDFS 5341. Advanced Child Development.

This course focuses on the developmental processes and influences from conception through adolescence and emphasizes the interactive relationship of biological and environmental factors in the total development of the child.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HDFS 5343. Child Life Specialist.

This course introduces students to the scope of Child Life practice, the impact of illness and injury on children and families, patient experience, family centered care, therapeutic play and psychological preparation for treatment and healthcare interventions. The course focuses on theoretical and evidence-based practices used in Child Life practice when interacting with children and families in a variety of healthcare settings. This course includes content necessary for pursuing application to Child Life Internships and the National Child Life Certification Exam.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HDFS 5344. Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health.

This course provides an interdisciplinary understanding of the social and emotional development of infants and young children within the context of the family. Focus is on the role of the infant mental health specialist in strengthening the development of young children and the parent-child relationship.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HDFS 5347. Grief and Bereavement in Children, Adolescents, and Parents.

This course focuses on grief and bereavement throughout the life cycle. Topics include a historical overview of the theoretical models on grief and bereavement, influences on grief and bereavement responses, and current perspectives on helping the bereaved cope. Students analyze grief and bereavement implications for child life specialists.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HDFS 5348. Pain and Anxiety Management for Children.

This course provides child life students with theoretical foundations and applied non-pharmacological strategies for assessing children's pain and anxiety and assisting them with alleviation during healthcare experiences.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HDFS 5350. Research Design and Methods in Human Development and Family Sciences.

This course includes evaluation of research concepts, methods, and strategies in human development and family sciences. The topics focus on the nature of scientific research, sampling, measurement, data collection, types of socio-behavioral research, data analysis, and evaluation of research reports.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HDFS 5351. Advanced Theory in Human Development and Family Sciences.

This course includes a critical evaluation of theoretical concepts and current research in human development and family sciences. Recent trends in family and developmental theories are emphasized.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HDFS 5352. Issues in Human Development and Family Sciences.

This course examines current issues in human development and family sciences from conceptual, methodological, and multi-disciplinary perspectives. Emphasis is on current research and theories, and their application.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HDFS 5353. Program Evaluation in Human Development and Family Sciences.

This course focuses on the diversity and effectiveness of family and child services programs at the federal, state, and community levels. Program evaluation strategies and measures, fiscal management, and grant writing are included.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HDFS 5355. Advanced Independent Study.

This course provides opportunity for individual work on problems related to student's primary area of specialization. Work consists of empirical research or critical reviews and integration of existing literature. Course may be repeated once for credit when topics vary.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HDFS 5356. Advanced Program Administration.

This course focuses on human services organizations. Management theory and strategies, strategic planning, program development and implementation, personnel management, and public policy are emphasized.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HDFS 5357. Comparative Studies in Child Development.

This course focuses on the study of cultural values and beliefs and the reflection of these in child development practices. The interactive influence of culture and global policies is addressed.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HDFS 5358. Practicum in Human Development and Family Sciences I.

This course provides opportunity for structured practical experience in human development and family sciences programs. Supervision is provided by a member of the graduate faculty and a designated individual at the work site. Focus is on experiential learning.

3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 10 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

HDFS 5359. Practicum in Human Development and Family Sciences II.

This course provides a continued practical experience in human development and family sciences programs. Supervision is provided by a member of the graduate faculty and a designated individual at the work site. A research report is integrated with practical application. Prerequisite: FCD 5358 or HDFS 5358 either with a grade of "CR".

3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 10 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

HDFS 5394. Advanced Adolescent Development.

This course focuses on theoretical analysis and current research of adolescent development. Topics may include developmental transitions, contexts, and issues in diverse adolescents in the contemporary society.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

HDFS 5399A. Thesis.

This course represents a student's initial thesis enrollment. Focus is on identification of thesis topic, review of literature, and research design. No thesis credit is awarded until a student has completed the thesis in Human Development and Family Sciences.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

HDFS 5399B. Thesis.

This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollment. The focus of this course is on data collection, analysis, and writing of thesis. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

HDFS 5599B. Thesis.

This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollment. The focus of this course is on data collection, analysis, and writing of thesis. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding.

5 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

HDFS 5659. Internship in Child Life.

This course is a structured clinical experience for individuals who plan to pursue a career in child life. Students are provided the opportunity to work in a hospital or community-based program setting under the direction of a certified child life specialist. Successful completion of a clinical experience under a certified child life specialist is required for all students pursuing application to the child life certification exam.

6 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 38 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

HDFS 5660. Advanced Practicum.

This course is a structured field experience for individuals who plan to pursue a career in the field of human development and family sciences. Students are provided the opportunity to work in a community setting such as a nonprofit organization, government agency, or healthcare setting. Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

6 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 20 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

HDFS 5999B. Thesis.

This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollment. The focus of this course is on data collection, analysis, and writing of thesis. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding.

9 Credit Hours. 9 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit