

Child Development and Family Studies, B.S.

Degree Offered

- Bachelor of Science

Nature of the Program

The undergraduate program in Child Development and Family Studies (CDFS) offers an online Bachelor of Science degree option.

Child Development and Family Studies (CDFS) program focuses on development from birth through age eight, focusing on typical and atypical development, with an emphasis on preparing students to work with young children and families. Students will also complete field experiences and internships in settings that serve children and families. The Bachelor of Science in CDFS is best suited for students interested in working with young children and their families, including careers as a family/parent educator, Head Start teacher, nursery school teacher, and family support worker.

Admissions for 2026-2027

INCOMING FRESHMEN

- All First-Time Freshmen who meet the University requirements are directly admitted into the Child Development and Family Studies program

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL TRANSFER STUDENTS

- At least a 2.0 cumulative university GPA is required for admission to the program

Major Code: 5506

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	University Requirements	69
	Child Development and Family Studies Major Requirements	51
Total Hours		120

University Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	General Education Foundations (GEF) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 (31-37 Credits)	
	Outstanding GEF Requirements 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7	24
CAHS 191	First-Year Seminar	2
	General Electives	43
Total Hours		69

Child Development and Family Studies Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
A minimum grade of C- is required in all Child Development and Family Studies Major Coursework.		
CDFS 110	Families Across the Life Span (GEF 4)	3
CDFS 112	Introduction to Family Processes and Dynamics	3
CDFS 210	Introduction to Parenting	3
CDFS 211	Infant Development	3
or CDFS 212	Development in Early and Middle Childhood	
CDFS 250	Research Methods	3
CAHS 300	Career Exploration in Applied Human Sciences	3
ECSE 311	Developmental Assessment for Young Children with Special Needs	3
or ECSE 315	Home-Based Programs for Early Intervention	
CDFS 413	Stress in Families	3
or CDFS 415	Family Interaction and Communication	
CDFS 416	Trauma, Resiliency, and Children	3

CAHS 489	Capstone Experience in AHS	3
CDFS 417	Families and Health	3
Upper Level Developmental Specialization		3
Select one of the following:		
CDFS 410	The Science of Positive Youth Development	
CDFS 412	Adolescent Development	
CDFS 432	Early Socio-Emotional Development	
Required Minor		15
Total Hours		51

Note: Students must earn grades of C- or better in all courses with the CDFS course designator required in the major. If a student's overall GPA drops below 2.0, they may be subject to academic probation and potentially dismissal from the program.

SUGGESTED PLAN OF STUDY

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ENGL 101 (GEF 1)		3 ENGL 102 (GEF 1)	3
CDFS 110 (GEF 4)		3 CDFS 210	3
CDFS 112		3 CDFS 211	3
CAHS 191		2 or CDFS 212 in offered in fall	
GEF 3		3 GEF 2	3
		GEF 5	3
		General Elective	1
	14		16

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ECSE 315		3 CAHS 300	3
or ECSE 311 offered in spring		CDFS 250	3
GEF 2		3 GEF 7	3
GEF 6		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3	
	15		15

Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
CDFS 412 or 432		3 CDFS 413	3
or CDFS 410 offered in spring		or CDFS 415 offered in fall	
General Electives		12 CDFS 416	3
		General Electives	9
	15		15

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
CDFS 417		3 CAHS 489	3
General Electives or Minor		12 General Electives or Minor	12
	15		15

Total credit hours: 120

Major Learning Outcomes

CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES

- Describe and apply knowledge in human growth and development, family issues and interaction, youth concerns and issues, cultural and societal contexts, and related topics.

- Explain, interpret, and appraise the various social contextual influences on development and family functioning and the interactive relationships between families and other societal institutions.
- Identify, describe, design, and appraise strategies for working with children, adolescents, and families in various social service and community-based context.