

# HUMAN ECOLOGY: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES, PH.D.

This is a named option within the Human Ecology, Ph.D. (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/human-ecology-school-wide/human-ecology-phd/>)

Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) offers an interdisciplinary approach to the study of families and individuals across the lifespan with an emphasis on research and its application to practice, programs, and policy. Graduate students in this option may earn the Human Ecology: Human Development & Family Studies, M.S. (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/human-ecology-school-wide/human-ecology-ms/human-ecology-human-development-family-studies-ms/>) along the way to the Ph.D.

The HDFS graduate program option is served by 11 full-time faculty members plus affiliated faculty members. Faculty members are professionally active with strong records of national and international scholarship. The faculty bring the perspectives of many different disciplines to their work, including psychology, human development and family studies, sociology, education, and psychiatry. Faculty members conduct basic research to understand families and their members and applied research and outreach to promote positive outcomes in human development and family life.

Faculty and graduate students in HDFS collaborate on research and outreach-engagement projects in a wide variety of substantive areas focusing on the well-being of individuals, couples, and families. Current areas of scholarly activity focus on early childhood, couple relationships, contemplative practices, mind-body well-being, parenting, family caregiving, and vulnerable populations (e.g., incarcerated parents, children with autism, and historically under-represented groups).

Reflecting the multidisciplinary orientation of the program, faculty and students employ a wide array of methods in their work. Faculty possess expertise in areas as diverse as multilevel, longitudinal, nonlinear, and dyadic modeling; physiological measurement; program evaluation; observational methods; experimental methods; survey methodology; and community-based research. The program explicitly values both qualitative and quantitative approaches to inquiry.

Central to the mission of the program is the creation, dissemination, and application of scientific knowledge to address real-world problems and issues. Applied work of current faculty and students includes public policy education, community building, outreach education, and prevention programs. This applied work is conducted throughout the state.

There is a demand for professionals trained in research, teaching, and outreach in the areas of human development and family studies in higher education, government, and human and family service programs. Regardless of whether HDFS graduates pursue careers in academic or applied settings, they are prepared for a life of scholarship and service.

## ADMISSIONS

Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program's admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program's website. Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. **Applicants must meet** the minimum requirements (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/>) **of the Graduate School as well as the program(s)**. Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/>).

Requirements	Detail
Fall Deadline	December 1
Spring Deadline	The program does not admit in the spring.
Summer Deadline	The program does not admit in the summer.
GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)	Required.*
English Proficiency Test	Every applicant whose native language is not English or whose undergraduate instruction was not in English must provide an English proficiency test score and meet the Graduate School minimum requirements ( <a href="https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency">https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency</a> ).
Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)	n/a
Letters of Recommendation Required	3

\* Due to COVID-19, there have been challenges for students attempting to take the GRE. For students applying for Fall 2022, the GRE requirement is optional. Regardless of whether GRE scores are submitted, all applications will be held in equal regard.

Applications are accepted once per year for fall admission and are due by December 1 of the preceding year. To be considered for admission to the Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) Ph.D. option in Human Ecology, the department requires the following materials:

- Online application (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/>) indicating "Human Ecology PHD–Human Dev & Family Studies" as your program selection
- \$75 application fee
- Curriculum vitae/resume
- Unofficial transcripts or academic records from each institution attended (official transcripts will be required for students who receive an admission offer)
- Official Graduate Record Exam scores (GRE Institution code #1846)
- International students only:
  - Official Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or Melab scores
  - International students who hold degrees from U.S. institutions do not need to submit language test scores
- Three letters of recommendation (submitted electronically through your Graduate School application)
- Uploaded Statement of Purpose/Reasons for Graduate Study

- Upload a writing sample
  - Examples of writing samples include prior scholarly work such as term papers, theses, or published articles. All writing samples must be written in English and uploaded to the online application system as a PDF.
- Complete the Supplemental Application portion of the online application

Additional information is available on the program website (<https://sohe.wisc.edu/graduate-students/research-and-creative-scholarship/hdfs-graduate-program/>).

## FUNDING

## GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (<https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/>) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

## PROGRAM RESOURCES

Funding opportunities for Human Ecology graduate students are available and made possible, in large part, by generous donations to SoHE. Every year, these funds are used to fund teaching or project assistantships, award academic excellence scholarships, and provide students doing their masters or doctoral research or final MFA project with conference travel scholarships and graduate research scholarships. See the School of Human Ecology Enrollment Policy on Funding Eligibility (<https://sohe.wisc.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-forms-deadlines/full-time-enrollment-policy-for-funding-eligibility/>) and view current funding opportunities on our program website (<https://sohe.wisc.edu/graduate-students/funding/>) for more information.

## REQUIREMENTS

### MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirements>), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

### NAMED OPTION REQUIREMENTS

#### MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face	Evening/ Weekend	Online	Hybrid	Accelerated
Yes	No	No	No	No

#### Mode of Instruction Definitions

**Accelerated:** Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students are able to complete a program with minimal disruptions to careers and other commitments.

**Evening/Weekend:** Courses meet on the UW–Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

**Face-to-Face:** Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW-Madison Campus.

**Hybrid:** These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

**Online:** These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

## CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirements Detail	
Minimum Credit Requirement	51 credits
Minimum Residence Credit Requirement	32 credits
Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement	Half of degree coursework (26 credits out of 51 total credits) must be completed graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university's Course Guide.
Overall Graduate GPA Requirement	3.00 GPA required.
Other Grade Requirements	The Graduate School requires an average grade of B or better in all coursework (300 or above, not including research credits) taken as a graduate student unless conditions for probationary status require higher grades. Grades of Incomplete are considered to be unsatisfactory if they are not removed during the next enrolled semester.
Assessments and Examinations	Doctoral students are required to take a comprehensive preliminary/oral examination after they have cleared their record of all Incomplete and Progress grades (other than research and thesis). Deposit of the doctoral dissertation in the Graduate School is required.
Language Requirements	Contact the program for information on any language requirements.
Doctoral Minor/Breadth Requirements	All doctoral students are required to complete a minor.

## REQUIRED COURSES

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Introductory Courses</b>		<b>3</b>
INTER-HE 801	Special Topics in Human Ecology (Professional Development Seminar)	
INTER-HE 792	Theories and Perspectives in Human Ecology	
<b>Basic Theory Courses</b>		<b>9</b>
HDFS 766	Current Topics in Human Development and Family Studies (Prenatal to Adolescence)	
HDFS 766	Current Topics in Human Development and Family Studies (Late Adolescence to Old Age)	
HDFS 865	Family Theory I (Survey)	
<b>Content Courses</b>		<b>9</b>

A minimum of 6 HDFS credits in content courses (not to include methods or statistics courses) at 700 level or above. Independent Study credits do not count towards content course credits

<b>Research Methods and Design</b>	<b>6</b>
INTER-HE 793      Research Methods	
<i>Choose an advanced research methods course (minimum 3 credits) in consultation with your advisor</i>	
<b>Statistics</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>As part of the Ph.D. program, students must also complete a minimum of one 3-credit, advanced level statistics course. Please consult with your advisor to identify a statistics course that fits with your area of study</i>	
<b>Research &amp; Thesis</b>	<b>9</b>
HDFS 990      Research and Thesis	
<b>Elective</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Minor Area Requirement</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>51</b>

## POLICIES

### GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures (<https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/>) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

### NAMED OPTION-SPECIFIC POLICIES

#### PRIOR COURSEWORK

##### Graduate Work from Other Institutions

With program approval, students are allowed to count up to 18 credits of graduate coursework taken at other institutions or as a UW–Madison Special student (with a maximum of 9 special student credits as part of the 18). Prior coursework taken at other institutions may not be used to satisfy the minimum graduate residence credit requirement. Credits earned ten or more years prior to admission to a doctoral degree are not allowed to satisfy requirements.

##### UW–Madison Undergraduate

With program approval, up to 7 credits numbered 300 or above from a UW–Madison undergraduate degree are allowed to count toward degree credit; undergraduate courses must be numbered 700 or above to count toward the minimum graduate coursework requirement. No undergraduate coursework may count toward the graduate residence requirement.

##### UW–Madison University Special

With program approval, students are allowed to count up to 18 credits of graduate coursework taken at other institutions or as a UW–Madison Special student (with a maximum of 9 special student credits as part of the 18). coursework must be numbered 300 or above for residence and degree credit and 700 or above to satisfy the minimum graduate coursework (50%) requirement. Credits earned ten or more years prior to admission to a doctoral degree are not allowed to satisfy requirements. Use of Special student credit may require payment of tuition difference.

### PROBATION

The Graduate School regularly reviews the record of any student who earned grades of BC, C, D, F, or Incomplete in a graduate course (300 or above), or grade of U in research credits. This review could result in academic probation with a hold on future enrollment or in being suspended from the Graduate School.

### ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

Every graduate student is required to have an advisor. An advisor is a faculty member, or sometimes a committee, from the major department responsible for providing advice regarding graduate studies. An advisor generally serves as the thesis advisor. In many cases, an advisor is assigned to incoming students. Students can be suspended from the Graduate School if they do not have an advisor.

To ensure that students are making satisfactory progress toward a degree, the Graduate School expects them to meet with their advisor on a regular basis.

A committee often accomplishes advising for the students in the early stages of their studies.

### CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

12 credits

### TIME CONSTRAINTS

Doctoral degree students who have been absent for ten or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; that coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.

A candidate for a doctoral degree who fails to take the final oral examination and deposit the dissertation within five years after passing the preliminary examination may be required to take another preliminary examination and to be admitted to candidacy a second time.

### GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS

These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

- Bias or Hate Reporting (<https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/>)
- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure>)
- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/>)
  - Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (<https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/>)
- Dean of Students Office (<https://doso.students.wisc.edu/>) (for all students to seek grievance assistance and support)
- Employee Assistance (<http://www.eao.wisc.edu/>) (for personal counseling and workplace consultation around communication and conflict involving graduate assistants and other employees, post-doctoral students, faculty and staff)
- Employee Disability Resource Office (<https://employeeabilities.wisc.edu/>) (for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities)
- Graduate School (<https://grad.wisc.edu/>) (for informal advice at any level of review and for official appeals of program/departmental or school/college grievance decisions)

- Office of Compliance (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/>) (for class harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence)
- Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (<https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/>) (for conflicts involving students)
- Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (<http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/>) (for employed graduate students and post-docs, as well as faculty and staff)
- Title IX (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/>) (for concerns about discrimination)

Any student who feels that he or she has been treated unfairly by a Human Ecology faculty or staff member has the right to complain about the treatment and to receive a prompt hearing of the grievance, following the grievance procedures outlined below. To ensure a prompt and fair hearing of any complaint, and to protect both the rights of the student and the person at whom the complaint is addressed, the procedures below are used in the School of Human Ecology.

The person whom the complaint is directed against must be an employee of the School of Human Ecology. Any graduate student or graduate applicant may use these procedures unless the complaint is covered by other campus rules or contracts.

Note: These procedures do not cover appeals of admissions decisions or other decisions made by departmental or Human Ecology committees. For information on appeals of decisions, students should contact the chair of the committee or the chair of the department that made the decision.

## Contacts

**Civil Society and Community Studies:** Brian McInnes (<https://sohe.wisc.edu/staff/brian-mcinnis/>) (Graduate Program Chair), Cynthia Jasper (<http://sohe.wisc.edu/staff/cynthia-jasper/>) (Department Chair)

**Consumer Science:** J. Michael Collins (<https://sohe.wisc.edu/staff/j-michael-collins/>) (Graduate Program Chair), Nancy Wong (<http://sohe.wisc.edu/staff/nancy-wong/>) (Department Chair)

**Design Studies:** Jung-hye Shin (<https://sohe.wisc.edu/staff/jung-hye-shin/>) (Graduate Program Chair), Roberto Rengel (<http://sohe.wisc.edu/staff/roberto-rengel/>) (Department Chair)

**Human Development and Family Studies:** Kristin Litzelman (<https://sohe.wisc.edu/staff/kristin-litzelman/>) (Graduate Program Chair), Janean Dilworth-Bart (<https://sohe.wisc.edu/staff/janean-dilworth-bart-2/>) (Department Chair)

**Master of Science in Human Ecology:** Sarah Halpern-Meekin (<https://sohe.wisc.edu/staff/sarah-halpern-meekin/>) (Graduate Program Chair)

Students are encouraged to keep written documentation of their experience of unfair treatment both before and during the grievance proceedings.

## Graduate Student Grievance Procedures

**STEP 1.** The student should first consider talking directly with the person(s) against whom the grievance is directed.

Some issues can be settled at this level, and some cannot be. Although students are encouraged to talk directly with the person(s) involved, we recognize that this may not always be possible. If the complaint cannot

be resolved satisfactorily by talking with the person(s) involved, the student may continue to **Step 2**.

NOTE: In cases of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, or racial discrimination, students may choose to bypass these procedures and report the conduct directly to either of the following offices:

- SoHE Human Resources Manager: Nancy Andrews (<https://sohe.wisc.edu/staff/nancy-andrews/>)
- The Office for Equity and Diversity (<http://oed.wisc.edu/>) (179-A Bascom Hall, 608-263-2378, Wisconsin Telecommunications Relay Service: 7-1-1)

**STEP 2.** Does the complaint involve someone in a Human Ecology academic department (Civil Society and Community Studies, Consumer Science, Design Studies, and Human Development & Family Studies)?

- **Yes:** The student should contact the chair of the department. The student will submit the grievance to the chair in writing. This must be done within 60 calendar days of the alleged unfair treatment. The department chair will refer the matter to the department's Graduate Program Committee or to another appropriate departmental committee (standing or ad hoc) for review. The committee will share the student's written complaint with the person at whom the complaint is directed, and will obtain a written response from this person. This response will be shared with the student filing the grievance. The committee chair will provide a timely written decision to the student on the action taken by the committee (the departmental decision). If either party is unwilling to accept the departmental decision, the department chair will refer the matter to the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies (see contact information below). The Associate Dean will bring the grievance to the Human Ecology Graduate Program Council for review. (NOTE: if the grievance is against the department chair, the written complaint should be referred to the chair of the department's graduate program committee; contact information given below.)
- **No:** The student should contact the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies. (<https://sohe.wisc.edu/staff/connie-flanagan/>) The student will submit the grievance to the Associate Dean in writing. This must be done within 60 calendar days of the alleged unfair treatment. The Associate Dean will refer the grievance to the Human Ecology Graduate Program Council for review.

**STEP 3.** Human Ecology Graduate Program Council review.

To ensure fairness, the Graduate Program Council chair may appoint a subcommittee to review the complaint (e.g., excluding faculty from the student's department). The Graduate Program Council may ask for additional information from the parties involved and may hold a hearing at which both parties will be asked to speak separately in closed session. The Graduate Program Council will then make a written recommendation to the Associate Dean who will render a decision and submit it to the Dean of the School for final approval. The Associate Dean will provide the Dean's final decision in writing to the student and to the person against whom the grievance was filed. Unless a longer time is mutually agreed upon by the individuals involved, this written decision shall be made within 30 working days from the date when the written grievance was filed with the Associate Dean's Office.

Students not willing to accept the final decision of the Dean may appeal to the Graduate School (<https://grad.wisc.edu/documents/grievances-and-appeals/>).

Questions about these procedures can be directed to Connie Flanagan, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies (<https://sohe.wisc.edu/staff/connie-flanagan/>).

State law contains provisions regarding discrimination and harassment. Wisconsin Statutes 36.12 reads, in part:

“No student may be denied admission to, participation in or the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any service, program, course or facility of the system or its institutions or centers because of the student’s race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, disability, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital status or parental status.”

In addition, the UW-System prohibits discrimination based on gender identity or gender expression.

Students have the right to file discrimination and harassment complaints with the Office for Equity and Diversity (<https://employee disabilities.wisc.edu/>), 179-A Bascom Hall, 263-2378, Wisconsin Telecommunications Relay Service: 7-1-1

## OTHER

n/a

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Take advantage of the Graduate School's professional development resources (<https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/>) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

### PROGRAM RESOURCES

The School of Human Ecology Graduate Program values the professional development of graduate students and provides financial awards to those who are invited to present at professional conferences/exhibits.

The purpose of the support is to encourage participation in professional development, scholarly research, and/or creative endeavor and to help cover expenses not covered by other sources. Students may receive a maximum award of \$650 for travel (\$750 for international travel) to support conference participation in a single academic year. Students are encouraged to seek conference and travel funding from the Graduate School as a first step and apply for supplemental funds through SoHE as needed.

In addition, each academic department within the School of Human Ecology may offer additional professional development grant opportunities. See the program Events Calendar (<https://sohe.wisc.edu/calendar-of-events/>) for the most up-to-date information on professional development opportunities.

## PEOPLE

### Faculty:

#### **CIVIL SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY STUDIES**

**Professors:** Cynthia Jasper (chair), Lori Bakken, Constance Flanagan

**Associate Professors:** Brian McInnes

**Assistant Professors:** Kasey Keeler, Jennifer Gaddis, Leah Horowitz, Carolina Sarmiento, Mariaelena Huambachano

#### **CONSUMER SCIENCE (CONSUMER BEHAVIOR & FAMILY ECONOMICS)**

**Professors:** Nancy Wong (chair), Judith Bartfeld, J. Michael Collins

**Associate Professors:** Clifford Robb

**Assistant Professors:** Fenaba Addo, Lydia Ashton, Megan Bea, C. Yiwei Zhang

#### **DESIGN STUDIES**

**Professors:** Roberto Rengel (chair), Jennifer Angus, Wei Dong, Majid Sarmadi, Mary Hark

**Associate Professors:** Carolyn Kallenborn, Marina Moskowitz, Kevin Ponto, Jung-hye Shin

**Assistant Professors:** Marianne Fairbanks, Kristin Thorleifsdottir

#### **HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES**

**Professors:** Janean Dilworth-Bart (chair), Charles Raison, Julie Poehlmann-Tynan

**Associate Professors:** Larissa Duncan, Sarah Halpern-Meekin, Sigan Hartley, Heather Kirkorian, Robert Nix, Lauren Papp

**Assistant Professors:** Kristin Litzelman, Margaret Kerr, Alvin Thomas