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
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.