The undergraduate major in human development and family studies (HDFS) offers specialized courses in human development from infancy through old age, couples and family relationships, research methods, policymaking, parent-child relations, family health and well-being, parent education and support, and ethnic and cultural diversity in families. In addition to coursework, all students engage in a 150-hour, semester-long internship or high-impact learning experience in a professional setting related to their major and career goals. These settings include community mental health programs, early childhood education, legislative offices, health care agencies, research labs, criminal justice systems, child and family life education, and community-based social justice programs.

The major prepares students for careers in human and family service organizations and for graduate or professional school in a variety of fields including health care, education, family law, counseling, occupational therapy, program evaluation, physical therapy, case management, and the child life profession.

**HOW TO GET IN**

**PROSPECTIVE UW–MADISON STUDENTS**

All prospective UW-Madison students must apply through the central Office of Admissions and Recruitment (https://www.admissions.wisc.edu/).

Students who indicate an interest in human development and family studies (HDFS) on their UW-Madison application will be admitted to the program upon admittance to the university. In addition, students may indicate interest in the HDFS major when registering for Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR).

**CURRENT UW–MADISON STUDENTS**

**Declaration**

- First-semester students may declare SoHE majors.
- All students with fewer than 60 GPA credits, a minimal 2.75 cumulative GPA, and not on probation in their current school/college may declare SoHE majors.

**Application**

- All other students must apply through a competitive application process.

The best way for interested students to receive advising or additional information is by meeting with a SoHE advisor (https://sohe.wisc.edu/students/applying-to-sohe/bass/).

Visit On-campus Student Application (https://sohe.wisc.edu/prospective-students/prospective-students/applying-human-ecology/) for application timelines and deadlines.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatetext) section of the Guide.

**General Education**

- Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
- Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
- Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits
- Communication Part A & Part B *
- Ethnic Studies *
- Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

**SCHOOL OF HUMAN ECOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

A complete list of requirements is below. Students should follow the curriculum requirements in place at the time they entered the major. This requirement list should be used in combination with a DARS report.

**Code** | **Title** | **Credits**
--- | --- | ---
**Arts and Humanities**
Literature | 3
Humanities | 6
**Social Science**
PSYCH 202 | Introduction to Psychology | 3-4
Select 6 credits designated Social Science breadth | 6
**Physical, Biological and Natural Science**
Physical, Biological and Natural Science | 9
**Human Ecology Breadth**
Select a Human Ecology course from CNSR SCI, CSCS, DS, or INTER-HE | 3
**Total Credits** | 30-31

**HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES REQUIREMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
</table>
**Learning Outcome 1: Lifespan Human Development**
Earlier Lifespan |
Select one of the following:  

HDFS 362 Development of the Young Child
ED PSYCH 320 Human Development in Infancy and Childhood
PSYCH 460 Child Development

Later Lifespan
HDFS 363 Development from Adolescence to Old Age

Learning Outcome 2: Family and Community Diversity
Select one of the following:  

HDFS 174 Introduction into Cultural Diversity of Families
HDFS/CNSR SCI 465 Families & Poverty
HDFS 474 Racial Ethnic Families in the U.S.

Learning Outcome 3: Internal Family Processes
Select one of the following:  

HDFS 471 Parent - Child Relations
HDFS 516 Stress and Resilience in Families Across the Lifespan
HDFS 517 Couple Relationships

Learning Outcome 4: Social Institution Influences
Select one of the following:  

HDFS 469 Family and Community Influences on the Young Child
HDFS 535 A Family Perspective in Policymaking

Learning Outcome 5: Assessment, Prevention, Intervention, and Outreach
Select one of the following:  

HDFS 650 Parent Education and Support Programs
HDFS 663 Developmental and Family Assessment

Learning Outcome 6: Understanding Social Science Research
Statistics
Select one of the following:  

SOC/C&E SOC 360 Statistics for Sociologists I
STAT 301 Introduction to Statistical Methods
STAT 371 Introductory Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences
PSYCH 210 Basic Statistics for Psychology

Research Methods
Select one of the following:  

HDFS 425 Research Methods in Human Development and Family Studies
PSYCH 225 Research Methods
SOC/C&E SOC 357 Methods of Sociological Inquiry

Professional Development
HDFS 253 Human Development & Family Studies Leadership Symposium

INTER-HE 202 SoHE Career & Leadership Development  
HDFS 601 Internship

Additional high-impact practice course to be approved by the student’s SoHE academic advisor  

Electives
Select courses to bring degree credit total to 120

Total Credits 32-33

Examples include service learning course, second internship or research experience, study abroad experience, select upper-level HDFS courses, or undergraduate teaching assistantship experience.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

To receive a bachelor’s degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

Residency Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. ‘In residence’ means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. “In residence” credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

Quality of Work Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Knowledge of lifespan human development (including cognitive, social, and emotional development and individual differences) in social and ecological contexts.
2. Knowledge of family and community diversity.
3. Knowledge of internal family processes, including parenting and parent-child relations, couples, and family relationships across generations and family health and wellbeing.
4. Ability to consider and evaluate how children, adults, and individual families affect and are affected by policies, media, or other social institutions.
5. Knowledge about the effective and ethical practice of assessment, prevention, intervention, or outreach for individuals and families.
6. Ability to understand, evaluate, and ethically conduct social science research.

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

This is a sample four-year plan for Human Development and Family Studies. We encourage all students to consult with their academic advisor to develop an individualized plan that meets their specific needs.
Freshman

Fall Credits Spring Credits
Communications A 3 Communications B 3-4
Ethnic Studies 3 Social Science 3
Quantitative Reasoning A 3 Humanities 3
Science 3 Science 3
Elective 3 SoHE Breadth 3

15 15-16

Sophomore

Fall Credits Spring Credits
HDFS 253 1 INTER-HE 202 1
HDFS 362, 362, 320 3 HDFS 363 3
Social Science 3 Literature 3
Humanities 3 Science 3
Elective 3 Social Science 3
Elective 2

13 15

Junior

Fall Credits Spring Credits Summer Credits
HDFS 474, 465, 174 3 HDFS 425 3 HDFS 601 3
Statistics (Quantitative Reasoning B) 3 HDFS 471, 516, or 517 3
Elective 3-4 Elective 3
Elective 3 Elective 3
Elective 3 Elective 3

15-16 15 3

Senior

Fall Credits Spring Credits
HDFS 535 or 469 3 HDFS 650 or 663 3
High Impact Practice-Based Course 3 Elective 3
Elective 3 Elective 3
Elective 3 Elective 3

15 15

Total Credits 121-123

— from exploring our majors as prospective students to becoming SoHE alumni.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Each SoHE student is assigned to an academic advisor in the Student Academic Affairs & Career Development Office. SoHE academic advisors support academic and personal success by partnering with current and prospective SoHE students as they identify and clarify their educational goals, develop meaningful academic plans, and pursue their own Wisconsin Experience.

To explore academic advising resources or schedule an appointment with a SoHE academic advisor, visit Advising in SoHE (https://sohe.wisc.edu/prospective-students/advising/).

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Active engagement in the career development process is a vital component of a student’s personal growth in college and future success as a lifelong learner, professional, and global citizen. SoHE career advisors help prepare students for life post-graduation through individual and group advising and integration of career readiness throughout our curriculum.

To explore career development resources or schedule an appointment with a SoHE career advisor, visit Career Development (https://sohe.wisc.edu/students/career-development/).

PEOPLE

PROFESSORS
Dilworth-Bart, Papp, Poehlmann-Tynan, Raison;

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS
Duncan, Halpern-Meekin, Hartley, Kirkorian, Nix;

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS
Kerr, Litzelman, Thomas;

FACULTY ASSOCIATES
Burkholder, Levchenko

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THE SCHOOL OF HUMAN ECOLOGY FACULTY AND STAFF DIRECTORY (HTTPS://SOHE.WISC.EDU/CONNECT/FACULTY-STAFF/).

WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

INTERNSHIPS

Internships are a vital part of student career development and a highly valued component of the undergraduate curriculum in the School of Human Ecology. High-quality internships foster student development by bringing theories and classroom-based learning to life in real-world settings. In addition, internships give students the opportunity to explore careers related to their major, gain relevant experience in their field(s) of interest, and develop a better understanding of what is expected in a workplace by performing the tasks of a professional in that field.

ADVISING AND CAREERS

STUDENT ACADEMIC AFFAIRS & CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The Student Academic Affairs & Career Development Office (SAA) fosters undergraduate students’ personal, academic, and professional development. Through advising, academic planning, and career education, we support students as they navigate the college experience
For SoHE majors, internships are a requirement of our undergraduate curriculum. Students must have at least a junior standing (54+ credits) in order to pursue a 3-credit internship and must complete a minimum of 150 hours at the internship site. To be eligible, an internship must be educational in nature, directly relate to a student’s major and career goals, and be approved by the Student Academic Affairs & Career Development Office (https://sohe.wisc.edu/students/advising/).

For some SoHE majors, additional course prerequisites may be required. For more information, visit SoHE Internships (https://sohe.wisc.edu/students/career-development/internships/).

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

School of Human Ecology student organizations include:

• Apparel and Textile Association (ATA)
• Community and Nonprofit Leaders (CNLUW)
• Financial Occupations Club for University Students (FOCUS)
• Interior Design Organization UW–Madison (IDO)
• Phi Upsilon Omicron (National Honor Society in Family and Consumer Sciences)
• Student Retail Association (SRA)

For more information about registering as a SoHE student organization, please visit SoHE Student Organizations (https://sohe.wisc.edu/students/human-ecology-student-organizations/).

Learn more about UW–Madison registered student organizations through the Wisconsin Involvement Network (https://win.wisc.edu/).

RESOURCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The School of Human Ecology awards many merit and need-based scholarships each year. The deadline to apply for scholarships is typically late in the fall semester. To be eligible for these awards, scholarship recipients must be registered as full-time SoHE students.

Students who experience emergency financial situations may inquire about the availability of short-term loans through the SoHE Student Academic Affairs & Career Development Office. In addition, university scholarships, loans, and employment are available through the Office of Student Financial Aid (https://financialaid.wisc.edu/) (333 East Campus Mall; 608-262-3060).