

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES, BS

The Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development & Family Studies (<https://humanecology.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-majors/human-development-family-studies/>) offers an in-depth education about human development and well-being across the lifespan, with a focus on relational health, including infant mental health, parenting, couples, and other family and social relationships. Students take specialized courses in policymaking, research methods, prevention and intervention, and ethnic/cultural diversity in families.

In addition to coursework, all students engage in a semester-long internship or other high-impact learning experience in a professional setting related to their major and career goals. These settings include mental health organizations, early childhood education centers, healthcare agencies, legislative offices, university advising units, research labs, human resources, criminal justice systems, child and family life education programs, and other community-based organizations.

Human Development & Family Studies offers excellent preparation for students interested in graduate/professional school in areas such as clinical healthcare and public health; counseling and clinical mental health; early childhood, K-12 and higher education; family law and case management; occupational and physical therapy; program evaluation and applied research; and the child life profession.

Human Development & Family Studies students may choose to pursue these additional credentials while completing their degree:

- Certified Family Life Educator credential, provided by the National (<https://www.ncfr.org/cfle-certification/become-certified/>) Council on Family Relations (<https://www.ncfr.org/cfle-certification/become-certified/>), recognized in the U.S. and Canada for Family Life Education professions.
- Infant Mental Health Endorsement, provided by the Alliance for the Advancement for Infant Mental Health (<https://www.allianceaimh.org/endorsement-requirements-guidelines/>), which promotes the social-emotional development of children from newborn to 6 years within the family and community context.

For more information on these credentials, please contact the Advising & Career Center (<https://advising.humanecology.wisc.edu/>).

HOW TO GET IN

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CURRENT UW-MADISON STUDENTS

Students within their first 60 GPA credits at UW-Madison

Requirements	Details
How to get in	No application required. All students who meet the requirements listed below are able to declare. For information on how to declare, see: https://go.wisc.edu/sohe-declare (https://go.wisc.edu/sohe-declare/).

Courses required to get in	None.
GPA requirements to get in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-semester students have no GPA requirement to declare. • Non-first-semester students within the first 60 GPA credits: Minimum 2.750 cumulative GPA based on all UW-Madison coursework.
Credits required to get in	None.
Other	Must be in good academic standing with their current school or college.

All other students (who do not meet the declaration criteria above)

Requirements	Details
How to get in	Application required. Meeting the requirements listed below does not guarantee admission. (https://go.wisc.edu/sohe-apply (https://go.wisc.edu/sohe-apply/))
Courses required to get in	None.
GPA requirements to get in	None.
Credits required to get in	None.
Other	Must be in good academic standing with their current school or college.

Semester	Deadline to apply	Decision notification timeline
To apply for a fall start	The fifth Friday of the term.	Students will be notified about decisions approximately one month after the application deadline.
To apply for a spring start	The fifth Friday of the term.	Students will be notified about decisions approximately one month after the application deadline.
To apply for a summer start	This program does not accept applications to start in the summer.	

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

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/#requirementsforundergraduatestudytext>) section of the *Guide*.

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| General Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 * |
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* 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

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

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES 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
Learning Outcome 1: Lifespan Human Development		
<i>Earlier Lifespan</i>		
Select one of the following:		3
HDFS 262	Development of the Young Child	
ED PSYCH 320	Human Development in Infancy and Childhood	
PSYCH 460	Child Development	
<i>Later Lifespan</i>		
HDFS 263	Development from Adolescence to Old Age	3
Learning Outcome 2: Family and Community Diversity		
Select one of the following:		3
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:		3
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:		3
HDFS 462	Infant/Toddler Development & Group Care	
HDFS 464	Play-Development and Role Across the Lifespan	
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:		3
HDFS 345	Ecology of Child Health and Well-Being	
HDFS 650	Parent Education and Support Programs	
HDFS 663	Developmental and Family Assessment	
Learning Outcome 6: Understanding Social Science Research		
<i>Statistics</i>		
Select one of the following:		3-4
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	
<i>Research Methods</i>		

Select one of the following: 3-4

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	1
INTER-HE 202	SoHE Career & Leadership Development	1
HDFS 601	Internship	3
Additional high-impact practice course to be approved by the student's Human Ecology academic advisor ¹		3

Electives

Select courses to bring degree credit total to 120

Total Credits 32-34

¹ 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

Total Degree 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

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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

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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 PSYCH 202	3-4
Quantitative Reasoning A	3 Humanities	3
Science	3 Science	3
Elective	3 Human Ecology Breadth	3
15		15-16

Sophomore

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
HDFS 253	1 INTER-HE 202	1
HDFS 262, PSYCH 460, or ED PSYCH 320	3 HDFS 263	3
Social Science	3 Literature	3
Humanities	3 Science	3
Elective	3 Social Science Elective	3
13		15

Junior

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits Summer	Credits
HDFS 174, 465, or 474	3 HDFS 425, PSYCH 225, or SOC 357	3 HDFS 601	3
Elective	3-4 HDFS 471, 516, or 517	3	
Elective	3 Elective	3	
Elective	3 Elective	3	
STAT 301, 371, PSYCH 210, or SOC 360 (Statistics (Quantitative Reasoning B)	3 Elective	3	
15		15	3

Senior

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
HDFS 535, 469, 464, or 462	3 HDFS 650, 663, or 345	3
High Impact Practice-Based Course	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
	15	15

Total Credits 121-122**ADVISING AND CAREERS****ADVISING AND CAREERS****ADVISING & CAREER CENTER**

The Advising & Career Center (ACC) fosters undergraduate students' personal, academic, and professional development. Through advising, academic planning, and career education, we support students as they navigate the college experience—from exploring our majors as prospective students to becoming Human Ecology alumni.

Academic Advising

Each Human Ecology student is assigned to an academic advisor in the Advising & Career Center. Human Ecology academic advisors support academic and personal success by partnering with current and prospective Human Ecology 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 an academic advisor, visit Advising in Human Ecology (<https://advising.humanecology.wisc.edu/academics/apply/>).

Career Development

Each Human Ecology student is assigned to a career advisor in the Advising & Career Center. 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. Human Ecology 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 Human Ecology career advisor, visit Career Development (<https://advising.humanecology.wisc.edu/careers/scheduling/>).

PEOPLE**PEOPLE**

For more information, visit the School of Human Ecology Human Development and Family Studies faculty and staff directory. (https://humanecology.wisc.edu/staff/uw_staff_type/faculty-staff/sohe-department/hdfs/)

WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE**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.

For Human Ecology 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 Advising & Career Center (https://go.wisc.edu/acc_office/).

For some Human Ecology majors, additional course prerequisites may be required. For more information, visit Human Ecology Internships (<https://advising.humanecology.wisc.edu/careers/internship-requirement/>).

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

School of Human Ecology student organizations include:

- Apparel and Textile Association (ATA)
- Community & Nonprofit Leaders (CNPL) of UW-Madison
- Financial Occupations Club for University Students (FOCUS)
- Interior Design Organization (IDO)
- Phi Upsilon Omicron (National Honor Society in Family and Consumer Sciences)
- Re-Wear It
- School of Human Ecology Makerspace Organization (SoHE Makerspace)
- Student Retail Association (SRA)

For more information about joining a Human Ecology student organization, please visit Human Ecology Student Organizations (<https://go.wisc.edu/sohestudentorganizations/>).

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

RESOURCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS**RESOURCES AND
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SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The School of Human Ecology awards many merit and need-based scholarships each year. Students can learn more about these opportunities on the Human Ecology scholarships webpage (<https://humanecology.wisc.edu/academics/scholarships/>). To be eligible for these awards, scholarship recipients must be registered as full-time Human Ecology students. For further questions on the scholarship application, please contact the School of Human Ecology Scholarship Coordinator at scholarships@sohe.wisc.edu.

Students who experience personal challenges or emergency financial situations may inquire about the availability of short-term loans (<https://humanecology.wisc.edu/academics/scholarships/#emergency:~:text=-,Emergency%20financial%20support,-Students%20experiencing%20specific>) with the Human Ecology Academic Deans (<https://advising.humanecology.wisc.edu/academic-dean-services/>) (deansservices@sohe.wisc.edu). In addition, university scholarships, loans, and employment are available through the Office of Student Financial Aid (<https://financialaid.wisc.edu/>) (333 East Campus Mall #9701; 608-262-3060).