

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/>).