

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES: CHILD DEVELOPMENT, BS

The Child Development option within the Human Development & Family Studies (HDFS) major offers a focused study of human development and relationships during childhood. It includes foundational HDFS courses as well as specialized advanced courses and applied experiences that are focused on children's development and relationships.

The Child Development option within the HDFS major prepares students for a variety of careers related to the health and well-being of children and their families, including healthcare, mental health, family support services, public policy, and family law. The curriculum of the Child Development track also meets the requirements for pursuing professional credentials, such as the Infant Mental Health Endorsement®, an internationally recognized credential for professionals who work with infants, toddlers, and their families, as well as the Certified Family Life Education (CFLE) national credential provided by the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) and recognized in the U.S. and Canada for Family Life Education professions.

Students can take advantage of learning opportunities and paid internships offered by centers and initiatives in the School of Human Ecology (SoHE), including the Child Development Lab (<https://childdevelopmentlab.wisc.edu/>) (CDL), an onsite laboratory preschool supporting applied learning, research, and class observations, and the PELICAN Center (<https://humanecology.wisc.edu/pelican-center/>), an interdisciplinary coalition of students and professionals working to support children and families through early literacy, child health advocacy, and early relational health. Students who pursue the Child Development track are given priority for CDL and PELICAN Center internships, including those with partners like the Early Childhood Health Consultation and Reach Out and Read Wisconsin.