

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES, MINOR

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

What is Human Development and Family Studies?

Students from many different majors benefit from the knowledge and experience they gain from HDFS courses. The minor in Human Development and Family Studies, one of the most popular minors at Penn State, helps students with a broad array of career aspirations understand human behavior. Students learn how people relate to one another and how to make a positive impact through the work they do. HDFS takes an interdisciplinary approach to helping students understand how individuals develop from birth to old age, how families, communities and workplaces influence individual development, and how they can apply this knowledge to develop, implement and evaluate programs designed to improve lives. The knowledge and skills gained through minoring in HDFS guides students to lead healthy, productive lives and excel in their careers. Whether you are studying business, education, nursing, communications, pre-health, pre-law, or a range of other fields, the HDFS minor has something to offer.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES (<https://hhd.psu.edu/hdfs/undergraduate/minor-human-development-and-family-studies/>)

You Might Like This Program If...

- You want to understand how individuals develop and change from birth to old age, how families and communities influence individual development, and how to apply this knowledge to improve the lives of individuals and families.
- You plan to pursue a career in which knowledge about individual and family development can be useful, such as human services, health professions (speech pathology, occupational therapy, nursing, medicine) education and business (marketing, human resources).

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WHY STUDENTS CHOOSE TO STUDY HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES (<https://hhd.psu.edu/hdfs/undergraduate/minor-human-development-and-family-studies/hdfs-minor-faqs/>)

Program Requirements

Requirement	Credits
Requirements for the Minor	18

Requirements for the Minor

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the minor, as specified by Senate Policy 59-10 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/59-00-minors-and-certificates/>). In addition, at least six credits of the minor must be unique from the prescribed courses required by a student's major(s).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
HDFS 129	Introduction to Human Development and Family Studies	3
Supporting Courses and Related Areas		
<i>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 9 credits of HDFS courses		9
Select 6 credits of 400-level HDFS courses		6

Academic Advising

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/>)

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Career Paths

Students from many different majors benefit from the knowledge and experience they gain from HDFS courses. The working knowledge and skillset one gains through minoring in HDFS is helpful for all kinds of students by guiding them to lead healthy and productive lives, to work well with others, and excel in their careers. A minor in HDFS is especially helpful if you are interested and passionate about improving the lives of

individuals, families, and/or communities through the work you aspire to do.

Careers

HDFS is a great minor if you plan to pursue work in:

- Health and human service professions
- Early Childhood Development/Education settings
- Program Administration and advocacy
- Counseling, social work, or other direct service work
- Program Administration, management, and other business careers
- Human resources and organizational leadership
- Public policy, equity, and advocacy
- Research

Students minoring in HDFS are encouraged to customize their HDFS course selection to align with their specific interests.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES WITH A MINOR IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES (<https://hhd.psu.edu/hdfs/undergraduate/careers-hdfs-majors/>)

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

The HDFS minor, when combined with an appropriate major field of study, can provide useful preparation for graduate school in the social, behavioral, and health sciences. In recent years, HDFS students have pursued graduate studies in:

- Counseling (e.g., school counseling, counseling psychology)
- Social work
- Health professions (e.g., nursing, occupational therapy, medicine)
- Psychology and Human Development & Family Studies
- Elementary and Secondary Education
- Law and business

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (<https://hhd.psu.edu/hdfs/undergraduate/careers-hdfs-majors/>)

Contact

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<https://altoona.psu.edu/academics/minor-programs/human-development-family-studies> (<https://altoona.psu.edu/academics/minor-programs/human-development-family-studies/>)

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World Campus

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<https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/penn-state-online-human-development-and-family-studies-minor> (<https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/penn-state-online-human-development-and-family-studies-minor/>)

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