

Queens College
Department of Family, Nutrition, and Exercise
Major: Family and Consumer Sciences

Human Development and Family Science (HDFS)

Specialization

Fieldwork Experience Guide

Human Development and Family Science (HDFS)

Fieldwork Experience

Students majoring in Human Development and Family Science s are required to have a Fieldwork Experience, which represents a significant milestone in their professional development. This exposes them to different social services and community programs and they have the opportunity to apply what they learn in their courses to real life cases. Students have the option of finding their own placements or they go to placements suggested by faculty. The Fieldwork Experience should be conducted with high professionalism and ethics.

Some students find employment during their fieldwork experience or at their fieldwork placements. Even before their fieldwork experience students are encouraged to volunteer at different agencies, depending on their interests. Volunteering experiences are contributing positively to students' applications for graduate studies or employment. Given the applied nature and coursework of our program, our graduates are also well equipped to find employment. Our students have been working in community programs providing different types of social services.

Fieldwork Experience Procedure

Students should take the course FNES 376 Fieldwork – Community towards the end of their program of study in HDFS so that they have a strong theoretical and empirical knowledge base. This will allow the student to apply her/his knowledge to practical situations in the field.

HDFS students must take 3 credits of FNES 376, which means they must sign for both, 2 and 1, credit sessions of 376. These should be taken in the same semester in order to receive the grade. Students are required to complete 135 hours for the course of fieldwork at their placement.

Students secure their own placement, which occurs prior to registering for FNES 376, to assure a timely completion of the hours during the class time. Student could also start their hours earlier, for example during the summer, before they take the class in the Fall semester, but **they are required to contact the instructor of the class and obtain his/her approval of the placement.** Not having this approval from the instructor might require them to change their placement to a more appropriate program.

Students are **highly encouraged** to reflect on their career choices and desired workplace and to look for a **fieldwork placement in that area of interest** so that they acquire skills that could support them in finding employment or in acceptance in graduate programs.

Finding a Fieldwork Placement

Program Identification

Based on their interests and future career and employment plans, students should look for a placement for their fieldwork. Based on their interests and also on others factors (e.g., closeness to home, schedule, requirements) students should conduct an online search of social and human

services in New York City area. Students should identify more than one program, perhaps two or three, in case one of them is not compatible.

Initiation of Contact

After identifying a community program of interest the student should study the program website to familiarize her/himself with the program, its goals, activities, etc. They should then establish a contact with one of the professionals there (by email or phone). The student should not just go directly to the program without establishing an appointment first.

Conducting the Fieldwork Experience

Upon agreement with the professionals at the placement site, and following approval from the FNES 376 Instructor, the students are conducting their fieldwork experience keeping track of their hours. The activities performed will differ depending on the site.

Professional Behavior Expectations

While at the fieldwork placement and in all interactions with colleagues, staff, professionals, and clients, students are expected to exercise high level of professionalism. This includes, among others, punctuality, appropriate/professional attire, professional oral and written communication, and adherence to the *Family Life Educators Code of Ethics*.

Programs for Fieldwork Experience

Examples of programs where previous students went include: different child care services, Head Start Programs, domestic violence agencies (e.g. Safe Horizon (www.safehorizon.org), Child Advocacy centers, Foster Care Agencies (.g., Forestdale www.forestdaleinc.org), adoption agencies, nursing homes, etc.

Social and Human Services in the New York City Area

Below is a list with human services and community programs in New York City area. Students could find other programs, besides the ones indicated below. Students should obtain approval for their placement site from the FNES 376 Instructor.

Please also note that the programs below have not agreed to accept our students. As such, please do not assume that they will accept you for the fieldwork. Thus, please initiate the contact yourself and do not feel disappointed if they are not accepting you; simply contact another program. Some social and human services are very concerned about the confidentiality of their clients and are reluctant to accept students. We must honor their decision and find another site. The list is organized in broad categories – note that some agencies have an interdisciplinary focus and could be placed in different categories, so please review the whole list before deciding on your program.

Thanks to HDFS Student, Shanet Rampersaud, for preparing this list.

Children

Advocates for Children of New York advocatesforchildren.org	Educational support, legal & advocacy services
The Child Mind Institute childmind.org	Research, education, advocacy & clinical care
Child Advocacy Center (QCAC) queensda.org/childadvocate.html	Investigation, prosecution & delivery of treatment services in cases of child sexual abuse and serious physical abuse
Forestdale www.forestdaleinc.org	Foster care, teen parenting, fathering
Safe Space http://www.safespaceny.org/safespace/	Providing specialized services for families and children

Training, Research Centers & Professional Resources

New York Early Childhood Professional Development Institute earlychildhoodnyc.org	Collaboration of agencies, private funders and CUNY for childhood progressiveness
Ackerman Institute for the Family ackerman.org	Family therapy & professional training
Family Justice Center Alliance familyjusticecenter.org	Consulting, programs & training
Administration for Children's Services – Social Services nyc.gov/html/acs/html/home/home.shtml	NY City multi-disciplinary agency
National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse	Government-funded national resource

fatherhood.gov acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/programs/healthy-marriage	
National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families healthymarriageandfamilies.org	Gov. funded training & resources for professionals & stakeholders
Healthy Place: America's Mental Health Channel healthyplace.com	Trusted consumer resource for psychological disorders & psychiatric medications from both a consumer and expert point of view
Anxiety & Depression Association of America adaa.org	National nonprofit organization dedicated to prevention, treatment, and cure of anxiety, OCD, PTSD, depression, and related disorders
Network of Care newyorkcity.ny.networkofcare.org/mh/links/index.aspx	Lists of local, state and national organizations & sites in social services field

Family Education, Services & Planning

The Single Parent Resource Center singleparentusa.com	Services for single parents in need
SoHo Parenting sohoparenting.com/	Groups, workshops and individual consultation to parents and children
NYC Dads Group nycdadsgroup.com	Community-support for fathers & socializing
The Committee for Hispanic Children & Families, Inc. chcfinc.org	Education and advocacy for Latino families & children
National Parenting Education Network npen.org	Advancing field of parenting education
New York State Parenting Education Partnership nyspep.org	List of Head Start & Parenting Programs; information on Parenting Educator Credential
The Family Center thefamilycenter.org	Brooklyn-based social & legal services; wellness & wellness programs
Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services jbfcs.org	social service and mental health programs to all New Yorkers
Families On The Move of New York City fotmnyc.org	Support, education & advocacy for families of youth with or at risk for emotional, behavioral, mental health &/or substance abuse challenges
The Parenting Training Network (PTN) parentingtrainingnetwork.com	Bronx based, fee-for-service agency offering parents educational workshops throughout the

	community
Growing Up Healthy health.ny.gov/community/pregnancy/health_care/ prenatal/guh.htm	Gov. hotline for health care, nutrition & other health and human services

Community/Economic Development & Poverty Prevention

Community Service Society of New York cssny.org	Housing, health care, workforce, economic security
Center for Urban Community Services cucs.org	Helps homeless or former homelessness; disability; low-income & mentally ill individuals
The Door door.org	Aids homeless teens access food, shelter, education & employment
United Neighborhood Houses unhny.org	Multi-service umbrella organization
Sanctuary for families http://www.sanctuaryforfamilies.org	Service provider and advocate for survivors of domestic violence, sex trafficking, and related forms of gender violence.
Covenant House https://www.covenanthouse.org	Services for homeless, foster care
Odyssey House odysseyhouseinc.org	Helps with substance use disorders, mental illness, homelessness, & medical problems
United Neighborhood Houses unhny.org/about/jobs	List of NYC settlement-house programs
Catholic Charities of NY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ http://www.catholiccharitiesny.org/our-agencies/a-z-directory/ ▪ http://www.catholiccharitiesny.org/about-us/job-opportunities/ 	Aids multi-disciplinary vulnerabilities such as neglected children, homeless families & hungry seniors
Seedco seedco.org	Workforce development, healthcare access & family support

Abuse & Violence

The New York Center for Children newyorkcenterforchildren.org	Child abuse therapy, workshops, crisis interventions, medical examinations (free services to public)
Child Abuse Prevention Program cappnyc.org	Prevention through education; also offers professional training
The Safe Center Long Island thesafecenterli.org	Assists victims of domestic/dating abuse; child abuse; & rape/sexual assault; a combined nonprofit of former Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CADV) & the Coalition Against Child Abuse &

	Neglect (CCAN)
Center Against Domestic Violence cadvny.org	Shelters, education & teen relationships

Disability

Quality Services to the Autism Community (QSAC) qsac.com	Serves autistic children & adults; provides trainings & support groups
Parent to Parent of New York State parenttoparentnys.org	Reduce isolation & help parents of disabled children
Self-Advocacy Association of New York State sanys.org	Helping the disabled and families gain more control of their services
The Advocacy Center advocacycenter.com	Advocacy, services & workshops to empower disabled community & families
AHRC New York City ahrcnyc.org	Intellectual & developmental disabilities; provides training & education credit
Life's WORC lifesworc.org	developmental disabilities including those on autism spectrum

Elderly/Geriatrics

Service Program for Older People spop.org	Mental health care for individuals 55 years of age or above
Henry Street Settlement: Senior Companion Program henrystreet.org/programs/senior-services/senior-companion-program.html	Provides companionship, friendly visiting, light errands, meal planning, medication reminders, caregiver respite & medical escort

LGBT

Long Island Crisis Center: Pride for Youth longislandcrisiscenter.org/projects.html	Serves LGBT youth through education, youth development and supportive services
Brooklyn Community Pride Center lgbtbrooklyn.org	physical and mental health services, social support, recreational and cultural programming

Mental Health / Medical Care

National Empowerment Network power2u.org	Mental health resources & organizations for consumers & professions; jobs, referrals, research & conferences/networking
The Bridge thebridgeny.org	Mental health & housing solution
NYS Office of Mental Health bi.omh.ny.gov/bridges/index	NYS mental health program finder for clients & professionals

Community Access communityaccess.org	For individuals with chronic psychiatric disabilities and little to no socialization, life skills, rehabilitation, or employment services
MHA: Innovations in Mental Health NYC: mhaofnyc.org New York State site: mhanys.org/ National level: mentalhealthamerica.net	Formerly National Mental Health Association: provides mental health services, advocacy and education in New York City and nationwide
National Alliance on Mental Illness NYC: namyncmetro.org National level: nami.org	Provides support groups, education & advocacy for families & individuals living with mental illness
AIDS Center of Queens County acqc.org	Provides services to those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and other blood borne disease
Institute for Family Health institute2000.org	primary care, mental health, dental care, social work and many other services to patients of all ages
The Samaritans of New York samaritannyc.org	Prevention hotline, public education & services
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline suicidepreventionlifeline.org	Government funded outreach
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention afsp.org	National organization for education, support & advocacy

Sexuality Education & Sexual Abuse

Sexuality Education & Counseling Services secstalk.orgsecstalk.org/resources_and_partners.html	Educational & networking resources
Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Program (SAVI) –Mount Sinai Hospital http://www.mountsinai.org/patient-care/service-areas/community-medicine/areas-of-care/sexual-assault-and-violence-intervention-program-savi/about-us http://www.mountsinai.org/patient-care/service-areas/community-medicine/areas-of-care/sexual-assault-and-violence-intervention-program-savi/volunteer	Serves rape, sexual assault and domestic violence survivors
Safe Horizon safehorizon.org	Serves victims of domestic violence, child abuse, human trafficking, rape/sexual assault; homeless youth & families of homicide victims
The Safe Center Long Island thesafecenterli.org	Assists victims of domestic/dating abuse; child abuse; & rape/sexual assault; a combined nonprofit of former Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic

	Violence (CADV) & the Coalition Against Child Abuse & Neglect (CCAN)
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Nutrition & Food Support

Henry Settlement House: Meals on Wheels henrystreet.org	Provides fresh and frozen meals to homebound senior Manhattan residents
City Harvest cityharvest.org	Rescues unwanted food & redistributes them to community programs

Miscellaneous

Long Island Teen Challenge litcny.org	Residential program for afflicted individuals & couples (ages 18 years & older)
The Good Dog Foundation thegooddogfoundation.org	Therapy dog services to people in health care, social service, educational and community facilities
Gallop NYC gallopnyc.org	Therapeutic horsemanship for children & adults with disabilities
Cicatelli Associates Inc. caiglobal.org	Public health training for government agencies and nonprofits; curriculum development

Possible Places for Employment:

Children's Corps http://fosteringchangeformchildren.org/index.php/CC	Child welfare, trainings
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This Guide was prepared by Dr. Mihaela Robila (2014; revised 2018, 2020).