

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 could be taken in the same semester or in consecutive ones. Students are required to complete a minimum of 120 hours 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 (e.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

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| 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/chiladvocate.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

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| 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 |

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| 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

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| 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 |

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| | 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

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| 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

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| 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 & |

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

Disability

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| 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

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| 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

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| 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

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| 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 |

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| 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

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| Sexuality Education & Counseling Services secstalk.org secstalk.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 |

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

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| 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

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| 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:

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| 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).