



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SCIENCE (HDFS) MAJOR

Strong families are the foundation for healthy communities and societies. Families today are confronted with different challenges (e.g., divorce, illness, poverty, death). Human development and family science professionals help families use resources to promote optimal development and find solutions to their problems using a multi-disciplinary approach (e.g., human development, family relations, family economics, and resource management).

The purpose of the Human Development and Family Science program is to prepare individuals for education and service careers working with individuals and families. Students develop the knowledge and skills necessary to help families successfully manage challenges they may encounter across the lifespan.

The Human Development and Family Science program offers a Bachelor of Arts degree and it is part of the Department of Family, Nutrition and Exercise Sciences at Queens College.

The Human Development and Family Science program has been approved for the Family Life Education Certification (CFLE) by the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) since 2005. The certification attests that the curriculum includes appropriate course work for each of the ten family life substance areas required for the CFLE designation.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The Human Development and Family Science Program prepares professionals for work in settings such as:

- State department of family and child services
- Health and human/family services agencies
- Day care centers
- Family life education centers
- Parenting programs
- Foster care
- Family service departments of hospitals and clinics
- Nursing homes
- Adolescents' and children's residencies
- Departments of social welfare
- Cooperative extension services
- Consumer relations departments of business and industry
- Nonprofit agencies
- Other career paths that require advanced degrees are social work, child life, marriage and family therapy, mental health counseling, school counseling, child life, and human resources



REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BACHELOR OF ARTS

Requirements for a Bachelor of Arts degree in human development and family science include satisfactory completion of the general college curriculum and courses specific to the HDFS Program (a total of 120 semester hours are needed for graduation). Among the required courses are Child Development and Parenting, Family Relations, Problems in Marriage and the Family, Family Issues and Conflict Resolution, Families in Cross-Cultural Perspectives, Child and Family Policies, Research Methods, Counseling Sexuality, Family Resource Management, Theories of Lifespan Development, Family and Community Program Development, and Child Life: Coping with Medical Problems.

THE FNES FACULTY

The faculty members have a broad and in-depth expertise in the field of human development and family science. They have conducted research and are published in the areas of parenting, impact of poverty on families, cultural diversity, child and family policies, child and adolescent development, and family life education. The faculty are enthusiastic, caring, and committed to students' success.

THE STUDENTS

Our graduates pursue positions in human services. They have jobs in areas such as social service agencies for children and elderly, mental health services, and parenting programs. Others decide to continue their graduate studies in social work, family counseling/family therapy, human resources, mental health and other fields, and they report great experiences due to their education at Queens College.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Professional development is encouraged through a variety of professional organizations such as the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) (www.ncfr.org). Students are encouraged to join professional organizations and to attend regional and national conferences and activities associated with them. Through membership and involvement in these associations, students begin to build professional networks for themselves before their graduation.

QUEENS COLLEGE

Queens College enjoys a national reputation for its liberal arts and sciences. The college is ranked fourth in the nation for “diverse student population,” with students coming from more than 130 countries, reflecting the diversity of the New York City area.



For more information about the Human Development and Family Studies Specialization, please contact:

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Please also visit our website at

<https://www.qc.cuny.edu/Academics/Degrees/DMNS/fnes/Programs/Pages/FamilyConsumerSciences.aspx>

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Family, Nutrition and
Exercise Sciences



DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY, NUTRITION, AND EXERCISE SCIENCES

Human Development and Family Science Program

