

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES MAJOR: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION OPTION (TEACHER LICENSURE) (B.S.)

Description

Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) is an academic discipline focused on understanding the development of individuals and families over time and across the ecological contexts in which they live. The Early Childhood Education (ECE) Teacher Licensure option within the major provides an applied focus on preparing students for careers as early childhood (birth - third grade) educators in childcare centers, preschools, and elementary schools. The ECE Teacher Licensure curriculum offers students the opportunity to take courses on infant and child development, working with children with special needs, teaching and learning in early care and education settings, observation and assessment of children, and building strong family-school-community partnerships. Additionally, students take subject-area coursework focused on developing the skills needed to teach math, science, social studies, and literacy. The principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion are woven throughout every course and internship experience to prepare students for inclusive educational practice.

As a major public research university, UNH emphasizes hands-on experience and research opportunities for undergraduate students. Students within the HDFS Early Childhood Education Teacher Licensure option are provided with opportunities to put theory and research into practice through practicum and internship coursework at the Child Study and Development Center and a required full-year student teaching internship in a Kindergarten through 3rd-grade classroom.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Minimum Credit Requirement: 128 credits

Minimum Residency Requirement: 32 credits must be taken at UNH

Minimum GPA: 2.0 required for conferral*

Core Curriculum Required: Discovery & Writing Program Requirements

Foreign Language Requirement: No

All Major, Option and Elective Requirements as indicated.

*Major GPA requirements as indicated.

Major Requirements

The core curriculum required of each Human Development and Family Studies student is designed to give a broad introduction to individual and family development and interpersonal relationships across the lifespan. Building off this curriculum, each student can specialize in one of three options, Child Development, Early Childhood Education Teacher

Licensure, or Family and Lifespan Development which guide further required coursework. Faculty advisors support students in selecting coursework to best prepare them for their specific career objectives. In their senior year, students complete a capstone course and may participate in a year-long community-based internship experience.

Candidates for the Human Development and Family Studies degree must satisfy all of the University Discovery and Writing Program requirements in addition to satisfying the requirements of the major/option.

Code	Title	Credits
Core Requirements		
HDFS 525	Human Development	4
HDFS 545	Intimate Relationships and Families	4
HDFS 555	Research Methods in HDFS	4
Early Childhood Education: Teacher Licensure Option Requirements ¹		
HDFS 623	Infant and Child Development	4
HDFS 635	Teaching and Learning in Early Childhood Settings	4
HDFS 684	Curriculum for Young Children	4
HDFS 709	Child Development Internship	4
HDFS 771	Observation and Assessment of Young Children	4
HDFS 785	Seminar for Student Teachers I	2
HDFS 786	Seminar for Student Teachers II	2
HDFS 788	Student Teaching Young Children	8
EDUC 500	Exploring Teaching	4
EDUC 706	Teaching & Learning Literacy in the Elementary Classroom	4
EDUC 751A or EDUC 760	Inclusive Elementary Education: Literacies and Learning for Diverse Learners Introduction to Young Children with Special Needs	4
EDUC 703F	Teaching Elementary School Science	4
EDUC 703M	Teaching Elementary Social Studies	4
MATH 601	Exploring Mathematics for Teachers I	4
MATH 703	Teaching of Mathematics in Grades K-5	4
Capstone		
HDFS 743	Families, Schools, and Community	4

¹ All students in the Early Childhood Education Teacher Licensure option must meet state student-teaching requirements (basic academic skills assessment and criminal background check) and minimum 3.2 overall and major GPA and course progression requirements (B- or better in all option courses) confirmed through application during the spring of their junior year. Students who do not meet requirements will be transitioned to the Child Development option. Graduates of the Early Childhood Education Teacher Licensure will be eligible for recommendation to the NH Department of Education for Early Childhood Education (N-3) certification. Certification by the NH Department of Education also depends on meeting state subject area testing requirements and criminal background check.

Degree Plan

Sample Degree Plan

This sample degree plan serves as a general guide; students collaborate with their academic advisor to develop a personalized degree plan to meet their academic goals and program requirements.

First Year		Credits
Fall		
ENGL 401	First-Year Writing	4
HDFS 525 or HDFS 545	Human Development ¹ or Intimate Relationships and Families	4
Discovery Course		4

Discovery Course	4
CHHS First Year Seminar	1
Credits	17
Spring	
HDFS 525 Human Development ¹ or HDFS 545 or Intimate Relationships and Families	4
HDFS 555 Research Methods in HDFS	4
Discovery Course	4
Inquiry Course	4
CHHS First Year Seminar	1
Credits	17
Second Year	
Fall	
HDFS 623 Infant and Child Development	4
EDUC 500 Exploring Teaching (or Discovery Course) ¹	4
Discovery Course	4
Course selected in consultation with advisor ²	4
Credits	16
Spring	
HDFS 635 Teaching and Learning in Early Childhood Settings	4
MATH 601 Exploring Mathematics for Teachers I	4
EDUC 500 Exploring Teaching (or Discovery Course)	4
HDFS 684 Curriculum for Young Children (or Discovery Course)	4
Credits	16
Third Year	
Fall	
HDFS 709 Child Development Internship (or Discovery Course) ¹ or HDFS 771 or Observation and Assessment of Young Children	4
HDFS 684 Curriculum for Young Children (or Discovery Course)	4
Major/Option Course (MATH/EDUC)	4
Major/Option Course (MATH/EDUC)	4
Credits	16
Spring	
HDFS 771 Observation and Assessment of Young Children ¹ or HDFS 709 or Child Development Internship	4
Discovery Course	4
Discovery Course	4
Course selected in consultation with advisor ²	4
Credits	16
Fourth Year	
Fall	
HDFS 743 Families, Schools, and Community (Capstone)	4
HDFS 785 Seminar for Student Teachers I	2
Major/Option Course (MATH/EDUC)	4
Major/Option Course (MATH/EDUC)	4

Course selected in consultation with advisor ²	4
Credits	18
Spring	
HDFS 786 Seminar for Student Teachers II	2
HDFS 788 Student Teaching Young Children	8
Major/Option Course (MATH/EDUC)	4
Credits	14
Total Credits	130

¹ Students should enroll in each listed course only once.

² Students may use these credit hours towards a minor, accelerated master's program (senior year if applicable), or as general elective coursework.

Student Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes

- Use theoretical frameworks and empirical research to understand and explain child/lifespan development, family process and the interaction of individuals and families with society.
- Recognize and respect a diversity of family forms and processes. Understand how human development and family interactions are shaped by diverse personal contexts and cultures. Understand and be aware of one's own biases, beliefs, and values.
- Understand ethical decision-making processes, and ethical standards and principles relevant to our discipline. Positively represent the profession in academic, professional and community settings.

Disclosures

Professional Licensure/Certification Disclosures

The University of New Hampshire offers a number of academic programs designed to lead to professional licensure or certification in New Hampshire. However, completing a UNH degree/program does not guarantee professional licensure or certification. Eligibility may also depend on factors like years of work experience, professional examinations, passing a background check, and other criteria.

UNH does not guarantee that its professional licensure programs will satisfy the criteria of professional licensure boards in other states. Some states maintain different requirements for professional licensure or certification and requirements can change frequently. Federal regulations require the University to make public disclosure of certain information regarding professional licensure or certification programs, regardless of the modality the program is offered (i.e., in-person or online). The University provides guidance below but recommends students contact their state/territory licensing or certification board to ensure a program meets specific state/territory requirements.

Visit the Office of the Registrar's [website](#) for information about whether this program meets professional licensure requirements in your state.