

# HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES



Family is front and center in BGSU's Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) program. With a degree in this field, you will focus on the full spectrum of the development of individuals and families through the entire life span. Graduates with a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development and Family Studies can work professionally in areas such as child advocacy, youth programming and community outreach services.

## How We'll Prepare You For Success

In BGSU's HDFS program, you will study the dynamics of relationships, environmental contexts that affect children and families, and community services that address the needs of children and families. In addition to core courses in human development and family studies, our faculty and staff help you develop critical thinking, communication and management skills.

You can also develop research skills through collaborative projects with our faculty. Faculty members choose several highly competent students each year to become research assistants.

When you graduate, you will be eligible for Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) designation.

## Valuable Hands-On Experience

BGSU faculty help maintain the Child Development Lab, a child-care facility which offers you many opportunities to work with and observe students.

You will have the opportunity to receive real-world experience in human development and family studies through an internship as part of your senior capstone experience.

In 2016-2017, HDFS interns contributed more than 17,000 hours of work to local organizations including United Way, American Red Cross, Behavioral Connections and the Children's Resource Center.

## For more information:

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## HDFS Professional Day

Each semester, the HDFS program area offers *Developing Connections*, a professional networking event involving local and regional community organizations who host on-campus interviews with students for internships the next semester. In addition to the job fair, students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of professional development activities including roundtable sessions, poster sessions and mock interviews for human services positions and graduate school.

## Career Opportunities

With a degree from BGSU's HDFS program, you can work with children, teenagers, adults or older adults in a variety of settings. Surveys of our alumni indicate that over 92 percent of our graduates are employed in their major area. About one-third of our graduates pursue advanced degrees. Our graduates have accepted positions in community outreach, family and community development agencies, public and private agencies, elder-care facilities, child-care programs, and preschools and family life education.

## What Our Graduates Say About the Program

*"Picking up human development and family studies as a major was one of the best decisions I made in college. HDFS not only set the groundwork for my interest in research, but was flexible and practical for my other interests in policy and organizing. The coursework still remains relevant to my experiences after graduation, and HDFS faculty continue to support me in my career as a post graduate of the program."*

— Alexandra Lahey '14

*"What I appreciate most about my human development and family studies degree is the relevance and flexibility it has offered me in the workplace. Every person is human and every person has a family – whatever their definition of that word may be. As a result, I am able to use my education and skill set in a wide variety of settings. HDFS faculty members are extremely supportive and provide amazing opportunities for networking and career exploration."*

— Jessica Jarvis '16