



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SCIENCE (HDFS)

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 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 10 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
- Family service departments of hospitals and clinics
- Nursing homes for the aged
- 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, 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, Theories of Lifespan Development, Family and Community Program Development, Child Life: Coping with Medical Problems, and Statistics in HDFS.

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 published in the areas of parenting, impact of poverty on families, cultural diversity, child and family policies, child and adolescent development, family life education, and parent-provider relationships in home visiting. The faculty are enthusiastic, caring, and committed to students' success.

THE STUDENTS

Students have the opportunity to participate in the **HDFS Club**, where they can gain additional professional development, have meaningful social experiences with their classmates, and build relationships with faculty members through planning events and networking. The club is advised by an HDFS faculty member and led by student leaders.

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 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 140 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/fnes/human-development-and-family-science-program/>

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DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY, NUTRITION, AND EXERCISE SCIENCES

Human Development and Family Science

