

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES, PH.D.

The Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies requires 78-84 credit hours for students entering with a bachelor's degree or 45-51 credit hours for students entering with a master's degree. Entering doctoral students who have completed a master's degree at another institution or department must fulfill (or have comparable substitutions for) all of the requirements of the HDF S. M. S. degree program; assessment of prerequisite courses occurs at the time of admission to the program. These requirements must be fulfilled in addition to completing the 45-51 credits required for the Ph.D.

For information regarding deadlines and requirements for admission, please see <https://grs.uncg.edu/programs/>.

In addition to a review of the admission materials required by The Graduate School, applicants must submit:

- A 1-3 page professional statement to explain their:
 - Reasons for pursuing graduate study in HDF S,
 - Previous experience and training in HDF S or related fields,
 - Professional goals,
 - Primary areas of research interest, and
 - Faculty members with whom they are most interested in working.
- An academic writing sample (e.g. senior year paper, literature review paper, honor's thesis, master's thesis, or a manuscript published or accepted/submitted for publication).

Based on the review of submitted materials, select applicants are invited to visit campus for an interview day, after which final admissions decisions are made. The HDF S Graduate Committee considers the compatibility of the student's interest areas with those of the faculty and with curriculum emphasis, as well as the student's availability for full-time graduate study.

Degree Program Requirements

Required: 78-84 credit hours (direct entry with a bachelor's degree); 45-51 credit hours (entry with prior master's degree with a thesis)

Students Entering with a Bachelor's Degree

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Core Required Courses (12 credits)		
HDF 651	Contemporary Research in Human Development	3
HDF 652	Theories of Human Development and Family Studies	3
HDF 653	Contemporary Research in Family Studies	3
HDF 656	Race, Class, and Culture	3
Foundational Methods and Statistics (9 credits)		
HHS 625	Research Methods in the Health and Human Sciences	3
ERM 781	Design and Analysis of Educational Experiments	3
ERM 782	Multivariate Analysis	3
Professional Preparation and Development (6 credits)		
HDF 640	Professional Seminar	1
HDF 661	Professional Seminar II	2

HDF 745	College Teaching in Human Development and Family Studies	3
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Thesis (6 credits)

HDF 699	Thesis	6
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Area of Specialization (12 credits) ¹

Development Area

Select one course (3 credits) from the following: 3

HDF 703	Contemporary Topics in Human Development and Family Studies	
HDF 713	Social and Emotional Development	
HDF 714	Cognitive Development in Young Children	
HDF 715	Infant Development	
HDF 716	Seminar in Adolescence	
HDF 725	Psychobiology of Human Development and Family Processes	

Family Studies Area

Select one course (3 credits) from the following: 3

HDF 703	Contemporary Topics in Human Development and Family Studies	
HDF 721	Seminar in Parent-Child Relations	
HDF 722	Families in Middle and Later Life	
HDF 723	Divorce, Remarriage, Cohabitation	
HDF 726	Close Relationships in Adulthood	

Sociocultural Context Area

Select one course (3 credits) from the following: 3

HDF 703	Contemporary Topics in Human Development and Family Studies	
HDF 730	Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Child Development	

Structured Electives

Select one course (3 credits) of structured electives from 600- or 700-level HDF content courses ² 3

Statistics and Methodology (12 credits)

HDF 756	Advanced Research Design in Human Development and Family Studies	3
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Select one course (3 credits) in quantitative statistics or methodology 3

Select one course (3 credits) in qualitative statistics or methodology 3

Select one additional course (3 credits) in statistics or methodology 3

Professional Development/Teaching Practicum (9 credits) ³

HDF 745	College Teaching in Human Development and Family Studies	3
HDF 750	Professional Seminar III	3
HDF 765	College Teaching Practicum in Human Development and Family Studies II	3

Dissertation (12-18 credits)

HDF 799	Dissertation	12-18
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Total Credit Hours 78-84

1

Specific offerings of HDF 703 will be eligible for inclusion in target areas specified by the department.

2

Students may select structured electives from 600-level HDF content courses with prior approval.

3

All doctoral students will complete a two-semester teaching practicum supervised by a graduate faculty mentor. The practicum requires the student to serve as an assistant, then as a co-instructor of a course (or courses) at the 100, 200, 300, or 400 level.

Students Entering with a Master's Degree (with Thesis)

Entering doctoral students who have completed a master's degree at another institution or department must fulfill (or have comparable substitutions for) all of the requirements of the direct entry Ph.D. program. Assessment of prerequisite courses occurs at the time of admission to the program. These requirements must be fulfilled in addition to completing the course work and dissertation requirements shown below.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Area of Specialization (12 credits) ¹		
<i>Development Area</i>		
Select one course (3 credits) from the following:		3
HDF 703	Contemporary Topics in Human Development and Family Studies	
HDF 713	Social and Emotional Development	
HDF 714	Cognitive Development in Young Children	
HDF 715	Infant Development	
HDF 716	Seminar in Adolescence	
HDF 725	Psychobiology of Human Development and Family Processes	
<i>Family Studies Area</i>		
Select one course (3 credits) from the following:		3
HDF 703	Contemporary Topics in Human Development and Family Studies	
HDF 721	Seminar in Parent-Child Relations	
HDF 722	Families in Middle and Later Life	
HDF 723	Divorce, Remarriage, Cohabitation	
HDF 726	Close Relationships in Adulthood	
<i>Sociocultural Context Area</i>		
Select one course (3 credits) from the following:		3
HDF 703	Contemporary Topics in Human Development and Family Studies	
HDF 730	Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Child Development	
<i>Structured Electives</i>		
Select one course (3) credits of structured electives from 600- or 700-level HDF content courses ²		3
Professional Development/Teaching Practicum (9 credits) ³		
HDF 745	College Teaching in Human Development and Family Studies	3
HDF 750	Professional Seminar III	3
HDF 765	College Teaching Practicum in Human Development and Family Studies II	3
Statistics and Methodology (12 credits)		
HDF 756	Advanced Research Design in Human Development and Family Studies	3
Select one course (3 credits) in quantitative statistics or methodology		3
Select one course (3 credits) in qualitative statistics or methodology		3

Select one course (3 credits) in statistics or methodology 3

Dissertation (12-18 credits)

HDF 799 Dissertation 12-18

Total Credit Hours 45-51

1

Specific offerings of HDF 703 will be eligible for inclusion in target areas specified by the department.

2

Students may select structured electives from 600-level HDF content courses with prior approval.

3

All doctoral students will complete a two-semester teaching practicum supervised by a graduate faculty mentor. The practicum requires the student to serve as an assistant, then as a co-instructor, of a course (or courses) at the 100, 200, 300, or 400 level.

Required Milestones*

- Residency (Immersion)
- Plan of Study
- Research Competency
- Comprehensive Exam (Written & Oral)
- Dissertation Proposal
- Admission to Candidacy
- Dissertation Defense
- Filing the Final Approved Dissertation

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General information about milestones for doctoral programs is available in Section III (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/academic-regulations-policies/graduate-policies/#sectioniiiisummaryofgraduateschoolregulationsforallcertificatesanddegreestext>) of the Graduate Policies (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/academic-regulations-policies/graduate-policies/>) page in the University Catalog. For information about how milestones are accomplished for a specific program, please refer to the doctoral program's handbook.