Faculty's research interests cluster in five focal areas: a wide range of research interests and methodological approaches. The Department of Human Development and Family Studies faculty have a comprehensive range of research interests and methodological approaches. The internship program within the department provides students with opportunities for professional experiences in the career field of their choice. The department also administers the Child Care Education Program at three sites with an enrollment of 80 children in all-day child care. Birth Through Kindergarten Teacher Education prepares students to teach in North Carolina public preschools and kindergartens, in addition to child care centers and other early care agencies. Birth Through Kindergarten Teacher Education and Early Care and Education are also available online for students transferring in with an A.A.S. degree in early childhood from a N.C. Community College. Child, Youth, and Family Development prepares students for careers in family, governmental, and community service agencies that serve children, adolescents, adults, the elderly, and their families.

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The Department of Human Development and Family Studies faculty have a wide range of research interests and methodological approaches. The faculty's research interests cluster in five focal areas:

- Early childhood development, care, and education including social, emotional, and cognitive development in young children, child care, and early childhood education;
- Parent-child relationships;
- Adolescence;
- Close relationships, marriage, and divorce; and
- Human development and family diversity in sociocultural context.

Faculty use a variety of quantitative and qualitative approaches including tests of children's social and cognitive development, micro-analytic analyses of peer and parent-child interactions, surveys, interviews, feminist methodologies such as photovoice and interpretive inquiry, and the design and evaluation of educational and intervention programs for children, family members, and educational personnel. Within these general areas of concentration and varied methods of inquiry, students focus upon more specific topics of study.

Graduate course work in human development and family studies focuses on individuals and families as they relate to friendship and kinship networks, the workplace, and economic, human service, health, and formal and informal educational systems. Graduate students have considerable flexibility in tailoring their studies to special interests and career goals. The department also offers several graduate programs jointly with the Department of Specialized Education Services: a M.Ed. in Birth-Kindergarten Interdisciplinary Studies in Education and Development; a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Birth-Kindergarten Initial Licensure; and a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Leadership in Infant and Toddler Learning. For information about these programs, see the Birth Through Kindergarten section under Interdisciplinary Programs at https://catalog.uncg.edu/interdisciplinary-programs/birth-kindergarten/.

Professor
Arthur D. Anastopoulos
Cheryl Ann Buehler
Mark Allen Fine
Anne C. Fletcher
Heather Mae Helms
Linda Lott Hestenes
Andrea G. Hunter
Karen M. La Paro
Esther Mae Leerkes, Professor and Jefferson Pilot Distinguished Professor
Catherine Scott-Little
Andrew J. Supple
Dena Phillips Swanson
Jonathan R. Tudge

Associate Professor
Stephanie Irby Coard
Jennifer L. Coffman
Danielle A. Crosby
Sudha Shreeniwas

Academic Professional Associate Professor
Kathryn Aldridge
Harriette Bailey
Joi W. Bulls

Assistant Professor
Rachel Jepkemboi Boit
Bridget L. Cheeks
Kierra Marie Pettit Sattler
Jocelyn R. Smith Lee

Academic Professional Assistant Professor
Elisa Avellar Mercon Vargas
Human Development and Family Studies

Jennifer Lynn Jones
Mackenzie N Ratledge

Visiting Assistant Professor
Beka Chace Pierro

G  Graduate-level faculty


* These interdisciplinary programs are jointly offered by the Department of Human Development and Family Studies and the Department of Specialized Education Services:
  • Birth-Kindergarten Interdisciplinary Studies in Education and Development, M.Ed.
  • Birth-Kindergarten Initial Licensure, Post-Baccalaureate Certificate
  • Leadership in Infant and Toddler Learning, Post-Baccalaureate Certificate