

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES

School of Health and Human Sciences

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About

The Department of Human Development and Family Studies offers an undergraduate program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development and Family Studies. The programs include the study of the development of individuals and families throughout the life span, seeking to improve their well-being through the creation, use, and dissemination of knowledge. Programs of study in the department are multidisciplinary, requiring a synthesis of knowledge from the social and behavioral sciences and from the field of education. The goal of the Department of Human Development and Family Studies is to provide the best opportunity in North Carolina for undergraduates to prepare for careers in child, adolescent, adult, and family care services; in the care and education of children with/without disabilities from birth to kindergarten; teaching in community child care programs and in preschool and kindergarten classrooms in the public school; and in cooperative extension and state agencies.

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. All serve as laboratories for the study of children and their families.

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; a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Leadership in Infant and Toddler Learning; and an Add-On Licensure in Birth through Kindergarten. For information about these programs, see the Birth Through Kindergarten section under Interdisciplinary Programs (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/interdisciplinary-programs/birth-kindergarten/>).

Professor

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Esther Mae Leerkes, *Professor and Jefferson Pilot Distinguished Professor*^G

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Academic Professional Assistant Professor

Elisa Avellar Mercon Vargas

Melissa Kearley Brinkley

Melissa Kearley Brinkley

Jennifer Lynn Jones

Jennifer Lynn Jones

Visiting Assistant Professor

Jill Veronica Bradley

^G Graduate-level faculty

- Early Childhood Development and Education, B.S. (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/health-human-sciences/human-development-family-studies/early-childhood-development-education-bs/>)
- Human Development and Family Studies, B.S. (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/health-human-sciences/human-development-family-studies/human-development-family-studies-bs/>)
- Human Development and Family Studies Undergraduate Minor (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/health-human-sciences/human-development-family-studies/human-development-family-studies-minor/>)
- Human Development and Family Studies, M.S. (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/health-human-sciences/human-development-family-studies/human-development-family-studies-ms/>)
- Human Development and Family Studies, Ph.D. (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/health-human-sciences/human-development-family-studies/human-development-family-studies-phd/>)
- Human Development and Family Studies, Doctoral Minor (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/health-human-sciences/human-development-family-studies/human-development-family-studies-doctoral-minor/>)

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. (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/interdisciplinary-programs/birth-kindergarten/birth-kindergarten-interdisciplinary-studies-education-development-med/>)
- Birth-Kindergarten Initial Licensure, Post-Baccalaureate Certificate (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/interdisciplinary-programs/birth-kindergarten/birth-kindergarten-initial-licensure-pbc/>)
- Leadership in Infant and Toddler Learning, Post-Baccalaureate Certificate (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/interdisciplinary-programs/birth-kindergarten/leadership-infant-toddler-learning-pbc/>)
- Add-On Licensure in Birth through Kindergarten (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/interdisciplinary-programs/birth-kindergarten/add-on-licensure-birth-kindergarten/>)