



Undergraduate Programs in Human Development and Family Studies

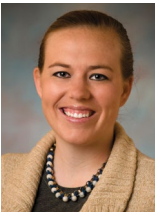


PennState
World Campus

A world of possibilities.
Online.

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“Changing family dynamics, an aging population, and stress across workplace and school environments highlight the growing need for professionals with critical thinking skills and knowledge to help support individuals, families, and communities.

“A common characteristic of our students is a desire to ‘help’ and have an impact. Our online programs in human development and family studies (HDFS) provide a great foundation for those students who are intrigued by human nature and the forces that shape us across the lifespan.

“We look forward to helping you explore the possibilities and prepare you for your future career in one of the many valuable ‘helping professions.’ Please feel free to contact us with any questions you have along your academic journey.”

—Shannon Corkery, Ph.D.
Director of Human Development and Family Studies
Penn State World Campus Programs

Online Programs in Human Development and Family Studies

If you want to improve the well-being and health of individuals and communities and set yourself apart from others in the health field, one of Penn State's highly regarded human development and family studies (HDFS) programs could be right for you. These respected programs, offered online through Penn State World Campus, provide a multifaceted education that spans child and adolescent development through adult development and aging, including an examination of biological aspects of human development, family studies, intervention research, and developmental research methods. Choose from four programs:

- › Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies
- › Associate in Science in Human Development and Family Studies
- › Undergraduate Certificate in Children, Youth, and Family Services
- › Undergraduate Certificate in Adult Development and Aging Services

As a student enrolled in one of our HDFS programs, you will study how people develop physically, emotionally, and socially across their life spans and within the context of family and

society. You'll delve into the amazing process of human development and growth; gain valuable insights into the impact of family and community on quality of life; and immerse yourself in human development in a variety of relational, social, and cultural contexts.

These programs can prepare you to become a leader in human services, develop new models for preventing and treating social and mental health problems, become an advocate for new social programs and policies, or pursue professional training in psychology, marriage and family therapy, social work, law, business, medicine, and other health professions.

We know your free time is limited and valuable, so we've designed flexible online programs that allow you to study around your schedule while still benefiting from meaningful interactions with knowledgeable, caring faculty and fellow students. Even HDFS program internships have been designed to make it possible for you to complete the requirements in your own community setting.

For more information, visit:
worldcampus.psu.edu/hdfs

Step-Up Approach to Learning

Our online HDFS curriculum is designed to help you reach your ultimate academic (and career) goals while achieving important milestones along the way (if you choose). The credits you earn in one of our undergraduate certificates are transferable to the Associate in Science in Human Development and

Family Studies. In turn, the applicable credits that you earn to complete our associate degree are transferable to the Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies if you apply and are accepted into the program. This model can allow you to experience career benefits all throughout your academic journey.

Bachelor's Degree
(120 credits)

Associate Degree
(60 credits)

Certificates
(30 credits or 15 credits)



Practical Applications

The course work for these degrees may be online, but preparing for a human services career requires experience working in the field with real people.

Both the associate and the bachelor's degrees include a human development and family studies internship. HDFS students are guided by a dedicated internship director through the process of identifying and securing high-quality internships at human services organizations in their communities.

Through this real-world learning experience, you can gain a deeper appreciation and more thorough understanding of your field of interest. Designed to enhance your overall learning, this internship can set you apart in the highly competitive job market by helping you to build professional networks, establish references, and gain experience applying your classroom learning.

A Military-Friendly University

We appreciate the sacrifices made by our active-duty military personnel, veterans, and military families. As a demonstration of our commitment to increasing your access to education, we have aligned our online programs, student support services, policies, and procedures to address your unique needs.

To help military personnel, veterans, and military families better understand and take advantage of these services, the Penn State World Campus Military Team is prepared to help you effectively manage your educational goals, military obligations, and benefits.



“I’ve accomplished something that I’ve wanted to...and to be able to do it while continuing in my career in the military means a lot.”

—Kristin O.,
HDFS Graduate

Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies

The 120-credit online Bachelor of Science in HDFS focuses on how individuals develop and change from birth to old age, how families and communities influence these processes, and how to apply this knowledge in order to develop, implement, and evaluate interventions designed to enhance people's lives. The curriculum can provide you with many practical life skills that you should be able to transfer across various aspects of your life and career. With this degree you can gain a better idea of what to expect through the life span and how to make interactions with people of all ages as beneficial as possible.

Career Opportunities

Employers in human services are looking for professionals who can oversee treatments and interventions; plan, organize, implement, and coordinate programs; supervise the operations of various centers;

and provide leadership for projects. Because of the broad curriculum that covers the entire life span and many different circumstances, you could be prepared for careers that help you make a difference in a wide range of organizations, including:

- › preschools, summer camps, and after-school programs
- › marriage and family programs
- › youth and family services organizations
- › elder care and services agencies
- › mental health facilities
- › drug and alcohol treatment centers
- › health care facilities
- › nonprofit organizations
- › human resource departments

This undergraduate program can also prepare you for graduate school or advanced clinical training in the social, behavioral, and health sciences.

“The road to your degree will be full of challenges, but if you stay dedicated, you will make it through. I am a single mom of two young children, and I have worked one and two jobs while taking 9 to 12 credits a semester. I look back on the beginning of my journey and realize how much I have learned. If there is a will, there is a way!”

—Sylvia S., HDFS Graduate

Associate in Science in Human Development and Family Studies

The 60-credit online Associate in Science in HDFS integrates practical and academic experiences to provide you with entry-level knowledge in human services. The curriculum can provide you with a general education background, an understanding of life span and family development, and a core of professional skills that may be applied in program planning and service delivery activities.

Depending on your background and ultimate career goals, you can choose one of two curriculum paths within the associate degree:

- › Children, Youth, and Family Services option
- › Adult Development and Aging Services option

Whether you already work in human services or you are looking for an entry point into related fields such as social work, education, nonprofit administration, human resources, law and government, or research, you could benefit from acquiring this degree.

Plus, should you decide to pursue your Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies from Penn State, the credits you've earned may be transferable toward your bachelor's degree, if you apply and are accepted into the program.

This allows you to take a step-up approach to your learning, while celebrating and benefiting from important milestones along the way.



“Earning a degree is a big deal to me. With World Campus I could get online and finish my class for the day or for the week...and do that basically anytime I wanted.”

—Brandy W.,
HDFS Graduate

Undergraduate Certificate in Children, Youth, and Family Services

This 30-credit, online undergraduate certificate can help you learn about individual and family development at all stages of the life cycle. The course work will explore the social, behavioral, and biological aspects of infant, child, and adolescent development within the context of the family and review historical and current perspectives and intervention approaches. In this certificate program, you can learn how to improve the quality of programs in a wide variety of community settings. The certificate can help give you the added level of education that prospective employers are looking for. The course work can prepare you to work in preschools; day care centers;

hospitals; institutional and community programs for emotionally disturbed, abused, or neglected children and adolescents; and in public welfare and family services agencies. Or, through this certificate, you can prepare for more advanced responsibilities at your current place of employment.

The certificate can be used as a stepping-stone into Penn State's online Associate in Science in Human Development and Family Studies program. The credits may also be applied toward the Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies, if you apply and are accepted into the program.





Undergraduate Certificate in Adult Development and Aging Services

As our nation's population of older people continues to grow, this field will require many more workers over the coming decades. This 15-credit, online undergraduate certificate can provide you with a deeper understanding of the issues associated with the aging and the elderly. It focuses on the biological, psychological, and social development of adults and elderly persons, with special emphasis on the various contexts of adult development, optimal aging, and longevity. Online course work in the certificate focuses on enhancing your knowledge and skills for service roles in institutions for the aged, such as nursing homes, assisted

living facilities, area agencies on aging, public welfare and family services agencies, mental health facilities, and in business and industry dealing with older consumers and/or employees.

The certificate is an excellent stand-alone credential that you can add to your résumé. With the assistance of your academic adviser, you can also apply the credits from this certificate to the online Associate in Science in Human Development and Family Studies or the Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies, if you apply and are accepted into the program.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is Penn State the best choice for me?

Reputation

Penn State is a recognized leader in the field of human development and family studies, so having a Penn State HDFS degree on your résumé is a great way to strengthen and broaden your upward career mobility.

Flexibility and convenience

Study when and where you please, and earn your degree at your pace. In HDFS, we have taken special care to design our programs to be supportive of students coming from diverse backgrounds, with all kinds of experiences and commitments. We have even designed our internships so you can fulfill the requirements in your own community setting.

What types of student support are available?

You will have access to the traditional student support services, such as career services, technical support, the University Libraries system, clubs and organizations, a dedicated student affairs team, and tutoring for some courses. You will be taught

by a team of HDFS instructors seasoned in facilitating learning for students via an online platform. They care deeply about student success and are always happy to support your growth and learning.

Can I obtain financial aid?

Penn State realizes that one of the biggest challenges of returning to school is the cost. Our advisers have been trained to help you make the most of the financial aid options and opportunities available.

Is this the real Penn State?

Yes. Since Penn State World Campus was launched in 1998, it has grown into one of the most highly regarded online campuses—extending Penn State’s reputation as a leader in higher education to those who study at a distance. When you earn a degree through Penn State World Campus, you’re earning an official Penn State degree from the College of Health and Human Development. There won’t be any designation on your diploma that your courses were completed at a distance.

Begin Your Application Today

To begin taking courses, you need to submit the online application form for the program of your choice.

To start the application process, visit worldcampus.psu.edu/hdfs, choose your program of interest, and click on the “Apply Now” button.

Associate and Bachelor’s Application Materials:

- › complete online application form and fee
- › official high school transcripts or GED transcript
- › official military transcripts (if applicable)
- › official college or university transcripts (if you attended another institution)
- › TOEFL or IELTS score (if applicable)

Certificate Application Materials:

- › complete online application form and fee
- › To enroll in one of the undergraduate certificate programs, you must be a high school graduate or have completed your GED.



Did You Know?

- › The HDFS curriculum takes a holistic approach by focusing on individual development from birth to old age from many different perspectives.
- › Employment is expected to grow faster than average in social and human services fields through 2020.
- › Our online undergraduate programs in HDFS can successfully prepare you for graduate school studies to diversify your training even further.
- › Penn State credits and degrees earned online are identical to those earned on campus.

Contact Us

Admissions Questions

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814-863-5386

worldcampus.psu.edu/admissions



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