Introduction
The Child and Family Studies Program is for students who have varied professional goals related to working with children, youth, and their families. Students who are interested in becoming elementary school teachers, social workers, counselors, early childhood educators, or special educators are advised to consider a degree in Child and Family Studies (CFS). The degree is also appropriate for students seeking career pathways such as parent educators, family advocates, youth workers, social service caseworkers, program directors/administrators, and classroom assistants. Students gain an interdisciplinary perspective on children, youth, and families, a broad understanding of family systems, and a working knowledge of the diverse socio-cultural contexts in which children and families develop.

Program content integrates theory with practice. A liberal arts foundation, coursework in professional development and the application of content knowledge, practicum experiences in two diverse settings, and the completion of a Professional Portfolio prepare students for professional roles as well as graduate school. Eleven different specialization options within the degree program allow students maximum choice as they prepare for the diverse professions that are of interest to most students. These specializations include: human development, families in society, youth worker, administration of programs for children, youth and families, early childhood education, early intervention/early childhood special education, elementary education, child welfare/human services, international worker, and family life educator. A strong emphasis is placed on preparing students to become professionals who are committed to becoming change agents in creating a more just world for children, youth, and families.

Undergraduate Program Learning Outcomes

Preamble to learning outcomes: Child and Family Studies students will be able to access, analyze, apply and articulate theoretical knowledge to make professional decisions that improve the lives of children, youth, and families.

1 Understand the development, roles and interaction patterns of children, youth and families in their social settings

2 Identifying dimensions of diversity and recognizing oppressive forces that hinder their positive development

3 Demonstrating professional standards of ethical conduct

4 (Honors Option Students Only) Assume the role of change agents regarding issues, policies, and community needs that affect children, youth, and their families.