

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SCIENCE

What can I do with this major?

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
<u>SOCIAL SERVICES</u> Case management Counseling - individual or family Advocacy Program development Community education Volunteer coordination Administration Research Evaluation Fundraising Public relations Grant writing	Community centers Youth services agencies/programs Family service agencies/programs (e.g. financial, family planning, health and wellness, marriage, vocational, food/housing assistance, military family support, etc.) Senior citizens programs Nursing homes Rehabilitation organizations Group homes Half-way houses Shelters and emergency housing Mediation centers Consulting firms Consumer protection agencies Adoption agencies Federal, state, and local government: Department of Health and Human Services: Administration on Aging Administration for Children and Families Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration Health Resources & Services Administration Department of Veterans Affairs Department of Defense Department of Justice: Probation and parole officers, correctional facilities	Exhibit a desire to help others, along with communication and organizational skills. Seek experience as a volunteer, intern, or paid employee with social service or non-profit organizations. Become familiar with government and community resources available for those in need. Develop a wide range of skills such as presenting, grant writing, and fundraising, as professionals in nonprofit organizations may fill multiple roles in their positions. Learn to work well with different types of people from varying socioeconomic, racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds. Supplement curriculum with courses in social work, sociology, and psychology. Pursue additional coursework to specialize in an area or with a certain population such as addiction, gerontology, child welfare, etc. Demonstrate the ability to make sound decisions and solve problems. Develop solid technology skills to utilize relevant software systems. Consider earning Certified Family Life Education (CFLE) credential through the National Council on Family Relations. Clarify if your institution's coursework leads to automatic certification as a Provisional CFLE. Become familiar with government hiring procedures and seek assistance with the process from your campus' career center. Obtain a master's degree and appropriate licensure to provide therapy. Earn a graduate degree for greater administrative positions.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
<u>HEALTHCARE</u> Hospital-based family support (e.g., provide emotional support, educate children and families, identify resources, coordinate events, etc.) Health, nutrition, safety education Advocacy	Hospitals Public health clinics Doctors' offices Healthcare facilities Specialized camps/schools Hospice programs Funeral homes Social service organizations Federal, state and local government: Department of Health and Human Services: Administration on Aging Administration for Children and Families Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration Health Resources & Services Administration	Volunteer in a healthcare setting such as a hospital or specialized children's camp. Develop a high comfort level working in clinical environments with children and families under stress. Acquire strong communication skills, and plan to work on interdisciplinary teams of doctors, nurses, counselors, etc. who provide care to children. Prepare to work nights, weekends and holidays in some healthcare settings. Earn a master's degree in social work, counseling, public health, or related area, for increased opportunities.
<u>EDUCATION/CHILDCARE</u> Childcare Parent-child education Administration of a child-care center Curriculum development Training Management	Private, public, franchise, and corporate day care centers Pre-schools and Montessori programs Religious organizations Extended school programs Recreation programs and camps Health clubs Family day care Independent families, nanny firms, and au pair services Federal, state, and local government: Department of Health and Human Services Head Start	Obtain experience working with children through volunteer, intern, or part-time positions. Serve as a babysitter or nanny part-time during the semester or full-time in the summers. Demonstrate patience, creativity, and the ability to work well with people of various backgrounds. Develop strong communication skills to work effectively with students, staff, and parents. Acquire appropriate certification, such as Child Development Associate (CDA) or Pre-K licensure for some pre-school settings. Certification varies by state. Note that some religiously affiliated employers seek staff whose values match their organization's missions.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

ADVOCACY

Policy development
Program administration
Fundraising/Development
Volunteer coordination
Grant writing
Development:
 Economic
 Community
 Housing
Domestic and international advocacy
Humanitarian services (e.g. human rights, family planning, world health, disaster relief)

Community action agencies
Nonprofit organizations focusing on a variety of issues (e.g., disability services, juvenile justice, child safety, etc.)
Private voluntary organizations
State and local government agencies
Faith-based organizations (FBO's) and churches
International aid and relief organizations
Non-governmental organizations(NGOs; e.g., Action Aid, Oxfam, International Red Cross,etc.)
Federal government agencies with
 International focus: Peace Corps, USAID, Foreign Service (State Department)
 Community assistance focus: Housing and Urban Development, Department of Health and Human Services

Demonstrate a strong desire to help others.
Volunteer at social service agencies to gain experience and demonstrate interest.
Participate in humanitarian trips over breaks to gain experience assisting groups in need.
Obtain Certified Family Life Educator credential.
Pursue leadership roles in campus and community advocacy organizations, and learn how to motivate individuals and groups.
Develop excellent research, writing, communication and organizational skills; fundraising experience may be helpful for some positions.
Complete an internship with a government organization in area of interest.
Research federal, state and local job application procedures.

BUSINESS

Market research
Product testing
Product development
Administration
Management
Sales
Customer service

Children manufacturing companies (e.g., clothes, toys, furniture, food, etc.)
Consumer protection agencies
Department and retail stores
Child-centered recreational businesses, (e.g., gyms, bounce houses, dance studios)
Camps
Social service organizations with business components (e.g., tax assistance, financial planning, etc.)

Demonstrate initiative, attention to detail, organization and problem-solving skills.
Learn to communicate effectively with a wide-range of people.
Consider taking interpersonal communication and public speaking classes.
Earn a business minor or supplement program with courses such as accounting, management, finance, etc. to increase understanding of business theory.
Obtain sales/retail experience with companies catering to children's needs.
Join business or retail student organizations and secure leadership positions.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
<u>COMMUNICATIONS</u> Research Curriculum/Resource development Journalism Writing Editing Public relations	Organizations geared toward children and families: Book publishers Radio and TV stations Newspapers Manufacturers Consumer protection agencies Professional associations Social service organizations Magazines Internet sites	Develop excellent grammar and writing skills. Learn to think critically and research effectively. Take elective courses in the communications field such as journalism, broadcasting, public relations and advertising, or earn a minor in one area of interest. Obtain experience with a college newspaper, yearbook, alumni publication or with local radio or television stations. Compile a portfolio of writing samples, ad campaigns and other relevant work, especially those that have been published. Develop desktop publishing, webpage design and other computer skills. Pursue an active role, preferably leadership, in journalism organizations. Prepare to work in deadline-oriented environments and to withstand criticism.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- A Bachelor's degree is sufficient for entry-level positions.
- Advanced degrees are essential for clinical and therapeutic counseling positions.
- The Human Development and Family Science major serves as preparation for students pursuing advanced training in other areas such as healthcare (e.g., pediatric nursing, family medicine, etc.); law (e.g., family law, elder law, child advocacy, etc.); and ministry (e.g., youth ministry, pastoral counseling, etc.). Research admissions requirements and take pre-requisite courses for programs of interest.
- A graduate degree is often needed for administrative and supervisory positions.
- A doctoral is required for most college teaching and advanced research positions.
- Additional or specialized training qualifies one for higher paying opportunities and positions of greater responsibility.
- Obtain part-time, summer, internship, or volunteer experience in child care, schools, hospitals, camps, or overseas programs in advocacy, addressing alcoholism, drug abuse, family violence, aging, poverty, disabilities, etc.
- Get involved in student organizations and seek leadership positions on campus.
- Research certification options for specialized areas including Child Development Associate, Child Life Specialist, or Certified Family Life Educator.
- Obtain certification in CPR, safety and first aid for infants, children and adults. Some positions will require this.
- Research certification options with the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.