

Family and Human Development, MFHD, PhD

Department: Family, Consumer, and Human Development Department

College: Emma Eccles Jones College of Education & Human Services

Overview

About This Degree

The Department of Family, Consumer, and Human Development is housed in the College of Education and Human Services, which is in the top 2% of all graduate colleges of education in the nation and is ranked third in total research dollars received.

MFHD:

The master of family and human development (MFHD) is designed to prepare professionals to provide cutting-edge education and services to individuals and families. Students receive advanced training in individual development and family processes, examining the interplay between them within the larger contexts of social institutions and policies. The MFHD is a practice-oriented, non-thesis degree especially suitable for individuals already working in family or social service sectors, education, and corrections who are seeking employment in fields where greater understanding of individual development and family process would be an asset.

PhD:

The PhD is for students wishing to pursue careers in the academic realm of family and human development. The program allows students to pursue research in current issues affecting families and human development.

Career Options

Recent graduates have found employment as teachers and counselors in the following areas:

- Public schools
- Academic departments at colleges and universities
- Research centers
- Hospitals
- Head Start
- Child care programs
- Social services agencies
- Mental health agencies
- Private and clinical practice settings
- Extension services
- Financial institutions and agencies
- Any related agencies that teach about, study, or serve individuals, families, and consumers

What it takes

Admissions Requirements

It is preferred that applicants have the equivalent of at least a minor in family, consumer, or child studies. However, competent students have been admitted from a variety of backgrounds. If a student does not have a family, consumer, or child studies background, they may be required to take prerequisite courses depending on their experience.

Application Requirements:

- Complete the [online application](#)
- Pay the \$55 application fee
- Score at or above the 40th percentile on the GRE or MAT
- Have a 3.0 or higher GPA on your last 60 semester or 90 quarter credits
- Provide transcripts of all college/university credits
- Provide three contacts for letters of recommendation

International students have [additional admissions requirements](#).

Admissions Deadlines

The department has the following deadline:

- Fall semester – January 15

Master's Degree Plan Options

Students can receive the MFHD by pursuing the following option:

- The **Plan B** option requires the production of a paper or creative work of art and is expected to reflect equivalent scholarship standards as a thesis.

Financial Assistance

The department has a variety of [scholarships](#), [fellowships](#), and [assistantships](#) available for students. The department tries to arrange funding for all first-year students. After the student's first year, they must find their own funding, but various funding opportunities are still available.

A variety of additional funding opportunities are available, including [tuition awards](#) and [travel support](#). Additionally, students may be eligible for subsidized [health insurance](#) through qualifying assistantships.

Program Requirements

[Click here](#) to see course requirements for the **Master of Family and Human Development**.

[Click here](#) to see course requirements for the **Doctor of Philosophy**.

Contact

Advisor(s)

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Faculty

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Shelley Lindauer, PhD, Oregon State University

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Jean Lown, PhD, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

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Thorana Nelson, PhD, University of Iowa

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Lori Roggman, PhD, University of Texas

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Area: Infant social development, attachment, parenting stress, play across the life span, physical attractiveness, early intervention

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Linda Skogrand, PhD, University of Minnesota – Minneapolis

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Area: Transcending a traumatic childhood, family crises, diversity, identifying components of strong marriages in diverse cultures

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Susan Talley, PhD, University of Toledo

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Get Involved

Professional Organizations, Honor Societies, and Clubs

National Council on Family Relations: NCFR is the oldest, multi-disciplinary, non-partisan professional organization focused solely on family research, practice, and education. It is an association of professionals dedicated to understanding and strengthening families.

Society for Research in Child Development: SRCD is a multidisciplinary, not-for-profit, professional association with a membership of researchers, practitioners, and human development professionals from more than 50 countries. The purposes of SRCD are to promote multidisciplinary research in the field of human development, to foster the exchange of information among scientists and other professionals of various disciplines, and to encourage applications of research findings.

Society for Research on Adolescence: SRA is a rapidly growing, dynamic society focused on the theoretical, empirical, and policy research issues of adolescence. Through its biennial meetings and publishing efforts, SRA promotes the dissemination of research on adolescents and serves as a network and forum for its members. SRA publishes the *Journal of Research on Adolescence*.

Labs, Centers, Research

Adele and Dale Young Child Development Laboratory: This laboratory provides a variety of programs for children birth to 12 years old. Faculty members, graduate students, and undergraduate students conduct research to better understand individual development and family relationships across the life span. They use the information gained through research to better aid the development of social competency skills in the children they serve. Each program in the laboratory is designed to provide children with a wide variety of developmentally appropriate divergent activities, a stimulating multisensory environment, and opportunities for discovery and making choices, interpersonal interactions, and independence-promoting situations.

Center for Persons with Disabilities: The CPD is a nationally recognized research center that joins the expertise of researchers and faculty with community partners to address the most difficult challenges facing persons with disabilities and their families. Research addresses issues that cross fields ranging from biomedicine to education. In clinical experiences, learners join teams of professionals, family members, and individuals with disabilities to deliver services and supports.

Early Intervention Research Institute: The EIRI is an interdisciplinary organization committed to investigating and improving policies and practices that support the well-being of at-risk children as well as those with special needs and their families. The institute conducts research as well as provides training and technical assistance at community, state, national, and international levels.