

# 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 40<sup>th</sup> 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)

**Randall Jones**

Professor

**Office:** FL 221

**Phone:** (435) 797-1553

**Email:** [r.jones@usu.edu](mailto:r.jones@usu.edu)

### Faculty

**Scot Allgood**, PhD, Brigham Young University

Professor

**Area:** Family therapy process, marital assessment and enrichment, family strengths, marriage and family therapy

**Office:** FL 203 B

**Phone:** (435) 797-1551

**Email:** [scot.allgood@usu.edu](mailto:scot.allgood@usu.edu)

**Troy Beckert**, PhD, Arizona State University

Associate Professor

**Area:** Life-span development, adolescence, research methods

**Office:** FL 220

**Phone:** (435) 797-1570

**Email:** [troy.beckert@usu.edu](mailto:troy.beckert@usu.edu)

**Lisa Boyce**, PhD, Utah State University  
Assistant Professor, Executive Director - Dolores Dore Eccles Center for Early Care and Education  
**Area:** Early language development, emergent literacy, program evaluation, early childhood professional development, early intervention  
**Office:** DDECECE 314  
**Phone:** (435) 797-3724  
**Email:** [lisa.boyce@usu.edu](mailto:lisa.boyce@usu.edu)

**Kay Bradford**, PhD, Brigham Young University  
Associate Professor  
**Area:** Interparental conflict, couple dynamics, parenting, adolescent well-being  
**Office:** FCHDW 108  
**Phone:** (435) 797-5454  
**Email:** [k.bradford@usu.edu](mailto:k.bradford@usu.edu)

**Lucy Delgadillo**, PhD, Utah State University  
Associate Professor  
**Area:** Future care among older Hispanics, developing marketing strategies to outreach Hispanics, foreclosure and defaults, predatory lending, diversity and minority issues  
**Office:** FL 308 A  
**Phone:** (435) 797-7204  
**Email:** [lucy.delgadillo@usu.edu](mailto:lucy.delgadillo@usu.edu)

**Elizabeth Fauth**, PhD, Pennsylvania State University  
Assistant Professor, Coordinator of the Gerontology Certificate Program  
**Area:** Adult development and aging, behavior problems of people with dementia, stress and well-being of caregivers of people with dementia, evaluating intervention programs for dementia caregivers  
**Office:** FL 222  
**Phone:** (435) 797-1989  
**Email:** [beth.fauth@usu.edu](mailto:beth.fauth@usu.edu)

**Brian Higginbotham**, PhD, Auburn University  
Associate Professor  
**Area:** Healthy relationships over the course of life, factors influencing remarriage quality, stepfamily functioning, program evaluation  
**Office:** FCHDW 105  
**Phone:** (435) 797-7276  
**Email:** [brian.h@usu.edu](mailto:brian.h@usu.edu)

**Randall Jones**, PhD, University of Arizona  
Professor  
**Area:** Adolescent development, identity, problem behavior, prevention, research methods  
**Office:** FL 221  
**Phone:** (435) 797-1553  
**Email:** [r.jones@usu.edu](mailto:r.jones@usu.edu)

**David Law**, PhD, Brigham Young University  
Associate Professor  
**Area:** Parenting practices and the development of the child's attachment, self-regulation, marriage and family therapy, health-care utilization  
**Office:** USU Uintah Basin campus  
**Phone:** (435) 722-1716  
**Email:** [david.law@usu.edu](mailto:david.law@usu.edu)

**Yoon Lee**, PhD, University of Missouri – Columbia  
Associate Professor  
**Area:** Household consumption patterns, human capital investments in children, living arrangements of the elderly,

financial security of single older women, women in family-owned businesses, cash flow problems in business-owning families, economic well-being of female-headed households

**Office:** FL 218

**Phone:** (435) 797-1555

**Email:** [yoon.lee@usu.edu](mailto:yoon.lee@usu.edu)

**Shelley Lindauer**, PhD, Oregon State University

Professor

**Area:** Alternative child care, gender role development, early childhood education, curriculum administration, socialization, development in infancy and early childhood

**Office:** FL 106A

**Phone:** (435) 797-1532

**Email:** [shelley.lindauer@usu.edu](mailto:shelley.lindauer@usu.edu)

**Jean Lown**, PhD, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Professor

**Area:** Women and financial planning attitudes and practices, retirement planning, credit overuse, consumer bankruptcy

**Office:** FL 308 C

**Phone:** (435) 797-1569

**Email:** [jean.lown@usu.edu](mailto:jean.lown@usu.edu)

**Brent Miller**, PhD, University of Minnesota

Professor

**Area:** Marriage and family relationships, adolescent pregnancy, adoption, research methods

**Office:** FL 215

**Phone:** (435) 797-2527

**Email:** [brent.miller@usu.edu](mailto:brent.miller@usu.edu)

**Thorana Nelson**, PhD, University of Iowa

Professor

**Area:** Marriage and family therapy, gender, family therapy training and supervision

**Office:** FLC 104

**Phone:** (435) 797-7431

**Email:** [thorana.nelson@usu.edu](mailto:thorana.nelson@usu.edu)

**Maria Norton**, PhD, Utah State University

Associate Professor

**Area:** Gerontology, adult development, epidemiology of aging disorders

**Office:** SER 129, FL 111B

**Phone:** (435) 797-1599

**Email:** [maria.norton@usu.edu](mailto:maria.norton@usu.edu)

**Kim Openshaw**, PhD, Brigham Young University

Associate Professor

**Area:** marriage and family therapy, research and application, theoretical conceptualization of self-esteem, physical attractiveness, early intervention

**Office:** FCHDW 120

**Phone:** (435) 797-7434

**Email:** [d.k.openshaw@usu.edu](mailto:d.k.openshaw@usu.edu)

**Kathleen Piercy**, PhD, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Associate Professor

**Area:** Midlife, older adults and family caregiving, family policy, qualitative methodology

**Office:** FL 219

**Phone:** (435) 797-2387

**Email:** [kathy.piercy@usu.edu](mailto:kathy.piercy@usu.edu)

**Lori Roggman**, PhD, University of Texas

Professor

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

**Office:** FL 129

**Phone:** (435) 797-1545

**Email:** [lori.roggman@usu.edu](mailto:lori.roggman@usu.edu)

**Linda Skogrand**, PhD, University of Minnesota – Minneapolis

Professor

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

**Office:** FCHDW 104

**Phone:** (435) 797-8183

**Email:** [linda.skogrand@usu.edu](mailto:linda.skogrand@usu.edu)

**Susan Talley**, PhD, University of Toledo

Associate Professor

**Area:** Pre-adolescents, prosocial behavior, attachment behavioral systems, socially constructed behavior, evaluation, culture, identity and diversity, school configuration

**Office:** USU Ephraim Education Center (Snow College)

**Phone:** (435) 283-7419

**Email:** [susan.talley@usu.edu](mailto:susan.talley@usu.edu)

## 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.