

Family Sciences

College of Agriculture, Food & Environment

The Department of Family Sciences offers M.S. and Ph.D. programs in Family Sciences. For more details and to apply for one of our graduate programs, see www.fam.uky.edu/grad.

Master of Science in Family Sciences

Areas of emphasis within the master's program are: (a) adolescent development, (b) aging, (c) couples and family therapy, (d) family finance and economics, and (e) family processes. The curriculum for each emphasis area except couples and family therapy requires a minimum of 30 credit hours, comprised of 15 credit hours of core courses (FAM 601, FAM 652, FAM 654, FAM 668, and FAM 690), 5 hours of electives, 3 hours of a data analysis or program evaluation course, 1 hour of a professional development seminar, and 6 credit hours for the thesis (Plan A) or scholarly project (Plan B).

The couple and family therapy emphasis area is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) and requires a prescribed curriculum totaling 53 credit hours (2 years, including one summer), comprised of 15 credit hours of core family sciences courses, 18 hours of core couples and family therapy courses, 10 hours of supervised practicum, 3 hours of a data analysis or program evaluation course, 1 hour of a professional development seminar, and 6 credit hours for the thesis (Plan A) or scholarly project (Plan B).

Admission Requirements

Students must have a bachelor's degree prior to admission into the master's program. Admissions are conducted one time each year; the application deadline is January 15 for admission Fall Semester of the same calendar year. Applicants must submit a statement of their academic goals for the M.S. degree and three letters of recommendation. See www.fam.uky.edu/apply/ for details.

Doctor of Philosophy

Areas of emphasis within the doctoral program are: (a) adolescent development, (b) aging, (c) family finance and economics, and (d) family processes. The doctoral program is a research-based curriculum designed particularly for those desiring a research career in family science, including positions at colleges and universities, program evaluation positions in public and private settings focusing on individuals and the family, and administrative positions in public and private human services prevention and intervention settings.

The curriculum is competency based, but minimal coursework requirements prior to the qualifying examination include 2 years of residency and 36 credit hours, comprised of 20 credit hours of foundational courses (if not taken in master's program), 9 hours of research methods and theory, 9 credit hours of statistics, 7 credit hours of professional development, and 15 credit hours in a specialization area.

Admission Requirements

Master's level practitioners, educators, and researchers in the social sciences are best suited for the doctoral program. Previous research experience is desirable, but not required. Although students generally must have a master's degree prior to admission into the doctoral program, particularly outstanding applicants who have earned a bachelor's degree but not a master's degree may be considered for admission into the doctoral program.

Admissions are conducted one time each year; the application deadline is January 15 for admission Fall Semester of the same calendar year. Applicants must submit a statement of clearly developed academic and research goals for the Ph.D. degree and three letters of recommendation. See www.fam.uky.edu/apply/ for details.

For additional information, see fam.uky.edu/grad or contact the Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Family Sciences, 315 Funkhouser, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0054 or 859.257.7750.

Course Descriptions

FAM 502 FAMILIES AND CHILDREN UNDER STRESS. (3)

An investigation of the stressors and crises experienced by families and their members and their efforts to cope with them. Special attention is given to prevention, management and enrichment strategies. Implications for practitioners will be drawn from conceptual frameworks and recent research. Prereq: FAM 352 and declared majors or minors in Dept. of Family Sciences or consent of instructor.

FAM 544 CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN AMERICAN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. (3)

Study of cultural and linguistic diversity in American children and families, with special emphasis on Kentucky children and families. Consideration of implications for working with young children and families in educational settings. Study of the variations in beliefs, traditions, values and cultural practices within American society, and their effects on the relationships between child, family, and school. Prereq: FAM 352; declared majors or minors in Dept. of Family Sciences or consent of instructor.

FAM 553 PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS ACROSS THE LIFECOURSE. (3)

Exploration of the parenting process from a lifespan perspective. Current theory and research, with child-rearing application, will be emphasized. Emphasis will be on parent education methods and the changing parental role over the life cycle. Prereq: FAM 352; declared majors and minors in Dept. of Family Sciences or consent of instructor.

FAM 554 WORKING WITH PARENTS. (3)

Principles, techniques, and resources relevant to working with parents as individuals, couples, and families. Survey of related literature on parent effectiveness and parent education is included with relevant field experiences. Lecture, two hours; laboratory, two hours. Prereq: FAM 260 and six hours of 300 level or above in social and behavioral sciences or consent of instructor.

FAM 563 FAMILIES, LEGISLATION, AND PUBLIC POLICY. (3)

A study of the impact of legislation and public policies on the well being of the family. Emphasis on the involvement of individuals and families with policies and legal resources as a means for realizing satisfying life styles. Prereq: FAM 251, 352, and declared majors and minors in Dept. of Family Sciences or consent of instructor.

FAM 585 AGING AND ENVIRONMENT. (3)

Explores the elderly person's changing experience of environment. Physiological, psychological and social changes are related to adjustment within urban and rural community environments, special housing for the elderly, and long-term care environments. Prereq: Graduate or advanced undergraduate standing and consent of instructor. (Same as GEO/GRN 585.)

FAM 600 WORKING WITH MILITARY FAMILIES. (3)

This course provides an overview of military work and family connections. Students will gain familiarity with the challenges unique to military individuals and families and the resources available to address them. Topics to be covered include: theoretical approaches to understanding the impact of military work on individuals and families; demographic profiles of and organizational demands on military service personnel and their families; military service and outcomes for children and adolescents, roles and challenges of military spouses; family policy in the military (including current formal and informal support structures and emerging trends in serving military families). Prereq: Graduate or advanced undergraduate standing and 6 hours of 300 level or above courses in social and behavioral sciences or consent of instructor.

FAM 601 FAMILY PROCESSES. (3)

Advanced study of typical family functioning across the family life course from a family process perspective, including examination of how “normal” differs according to family culture, structure, and history. Prereq: Family Science major. **FAM 622 THE FAMILY’S ROLE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION. (3)** The purpose of this course is to provide students with information related to working with young children with and without disabilities and their families. This course will focus both on presenting new information and providing opportunities for students to practice skills necessary for working with families. (Same as EDS 622.)

FAM 624 PERSPECTIVES ON HUMAN SEXUALITY. (3)

An examination and study of historical and current perspectives of sexuality as it relates to behavioral patterns, cultural attitudes, social policy and practice. Prereq: Knowledge of human behavior and personality theory highly recommended. (Same as SW 624.) **FAM 640 USING THE DSM IN CFT ASSESSMENT. (3)** Students will be trained to use the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) in family therapy assessment and practice. This will include a basic understanding of the process and procedures for diagnosing individual and family disorders, with the intent that students working with families in the context of a traditional mental health milieu will be able to make appropriate, basic diagnoses. Emphasis on assessing and treating disorders relating to family violence, child abuse, addictions, and substance abuse will be included.

FAM 652 READINGS IN FAMILY THEORY AND RESEARCH. (3)

Entry level course for graduate study of family theory and research. Conceptual frameworks and theoretical approaches are introduced and applied to an array of contemporary family issues, as identified through extensive readings of the empirical research literature. Prereq: Family Science major.

FAM 654 THE LIFE COURSE PERSPECTIVE ON FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS. (3)

Individual, family, and societal growth and change through the life span are examined using a life course perspective. The life course perspective emphasizes the interplay of human development, agency, linked lives, historical context, and timing of events. These five interlocking concepts will be understood through reading life course research and applying life course principles and concepts to issues in family sciences.

FAM 658 ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT. (3)

A survey of theory and research in adolescent development with particular emphasis on the role of families and implications for working with adolescents. Prereq: Six hours in social or behavioral science.

FAM 660 AGING ISSUES AND FAMILY RELATIONS. (3)

The study of dynamics of family interactions and issues when some family members are elderly. Emphasis is placed on perspectives from multiple generations and across various kin categories. (Same as GRN 660.)

FAM 661 HEALTH AND FINANCIAL ISSUES OF AGING FAMILIES. (3)

This course is designed to discuss health and financial security of older adults and develop empirical research from the perspectives of economics of individual aging and family relations. Emphasis is placed on the following topics: health status of the elderly, economic wellbeing of older Americans, intergenerational transfers of time and money, family care, giving and work, living arrangements, and empirical research for aging and family. Prereq: STA 570 or equivalent, or consent of instructor.

FAM 668 ALLOCATION OF FAMILY RESOURCES. (3)

Study of the contributors to and the recipients of family resources. Emphasis on the methods of assisting families to better allocate family resources through understanding money beliefs and attitudes and practic-

ing financial planning strategies.

FAM 673 FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION. (3)

Demographic, social, economic, political, and professional issues related to emerging trends in family life education will be examined. Emphasis will be placed on the development, implementation, and evaluation of family life education curriculum materials. Prereq: FAM 690; FAM 652 or FAM 654; or consent of instructor.

FAM 685 PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN COUPLE AND FAMILY INTERVENTION. (3)

Exploration and definition of the legal, ethical, and professional issues in the practice of couple and family intervention. Emphasis will be on developing professional skills, attitudes, and identity for couple and family intervention.

FAM 686 THEORY AND METHODS IN COUPLE AND FAMILY THERAPY. (3)

A survey of theories and methods used in couple and family therapy. Designed to provide students with a knowledge of the theoretical bases for couple and family therapy, including an introduction to procedures used to assess, diagnose and treat couple and family dysfunctions.

FAM 687 PRE-PRACTICUM: TREATMENT MODALITIES IN COUPLE AND FAMILY THERAPY. (3)

Phases of couple and family therapy process are presented both in theory and in case study analysis. The presenting problem, history of the problem, family history, identification of dysfunctional dynamics, goals, plan of treatment, and outcome/evaluation are emphasized within the context of organizing family therapy and phases of family therapy. Prereq: Admission to the CFT master's program or consent.

FAM 690 RESEARCH METHODS IN FAMILY SCIENCES. (3)

The study of research techniques and methodological problems involved in research on the family. Emphasis is placed on research concerning interrelations between the family and its environment, development within the family, and family dynamics. Prereq: Consent of instructor.

FAM 699 FIELD EXPERIENCES IN FAMILY SCIENCES. (1-3)

Field training in a community setting related to family sciences to develop competencies in program planning, delivery, and evaluation. Student will work under the supervision of a faculty and a training site supervisor. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits.

FAM 703 ADVANCED THEORY AND RESEARCH IN FAMILY ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT. (3)

Advanced study of research and theories in family economics and management with special emphasis given to current issues. Conceptual frameworks developed by leaders in family economics and management are studied and applied through designing and carrying out an empirical study. Prereq: Graduate work in statistics and research methods.

FAM 740 COUPLE AND SEX THERAPY. (3)

Field training in a community setting related to family sciences to develop competencies in program planning, delivery, and evaluation. Student will work under the supervision of a faculty and a training site supervisor. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits.

FAM 745 FAMILIES AND CHILDREN IN PLAY THERAPY. (3)

This course reviews the history, theories, techniques, and methods of play therapy and its clinical application to treat children, adolescents, adults and families. Instruction will include exercises, role playing, videos, class presentations, and instructor lectures. Prereq: FAM 686 or consent of instructor.

FAM 748 MASTER'S THESIS RESEARCH. (0)

Half-time to full-time work on thesis. May be repeated to a maximum of six semesters. Prereq: All course work toward the degree must be completed.

FAM 749 DISSERTATION RESEARCH. (0)

Half-time to full-time work on dissertation. May be repeated to a maximum of six semesters. Prereq: Registration for two full-time semesters of FAM 769 residence credit following the successful completion of the qualifying exams.

FAM 752 SEMINAR IN FAMILY THEORY CONSTRUCTION. (3)

An advanced seminar focusing on the definition, evaluation and construction of family theory. Inductive and deductive theory construction strategies are surveyed, evaluated and applied. Prereq: FAM 652. (Same as SOC 752.)

FAM 759 SPECIAL ADVANCED TOPICS IN FAMILY SCIENCES. (1-3)

Intensive study of advanced family sciences topics. May be repeated under different subtitles to a maximum of six credits. Prereq: Consent of instructor.

FAM 763 PRIMARY PREVENTION IN FAMILY SCIENCES. (3)

Designed to provide students with a background in prevention science with applications in family science and child development. Topics will include primary prevention of mental health problems among families and children, principles of prevention, prevention research design, ethical issues, and national agendas in primary prevention research. Prereq: Admission to a doctoral program in the social or behavioral sciences.

FAM 767 DISSERTATION RESIDENCY CREDIT. (2)

Residency credit for dissertation research after the qualifying examination. Students may register for this course in the semester of the qualifying examination. A minimum of two semesters are required as well as continuous enrollment (Fall and Spring) until the dissertation is completed and defended.

FAM 768 RESIDENCE CREDIT FOR THE MASTER'S DEGREE. (1-6)

May be repeated to a maximum of 12 hours.

FAM 769 RESIDENCE CREDIT FOR THE DOCTOR'S DEGREE. (0-12)

May be repeated indefinitely.

FAM 775 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR. (1-3)

Orientation to policies, procedures, and possibilities in the family sciences graduate program. Prereq: Consent of instructor.

FAM 777 APPLIED STATISTICS IN FAMILY SCIENCE. (3)

Emphasis is on conducting statistical analyses and reporting results. Topics include selection of statistical approach, techniques for conducting analyses, interpretation of output, and writing the results section of a manuscript based on that output. Prereq: STA 570, FAM 690 (or equivalent) and FAM major.

FAM 784 RESEARCH PRACTICUM IN FAMILY SCIENCES. (1-3)

Doctoral student research experience in collaboration with major professor in preparation for the qualifying examination. Prereq: Consent of instructor.

FAM 785 ADVANCED PROBLEMS IN FAMILY SCIENCES. (1-3)

Intensive independent scholarship or training in family sciences. May be repeated to a max of 6 credits.

FAM 786 TEACHING PRACTICUM IN FAMILY SCIENCES. (3)

Independent doctoral student teaching experience, under faculty supervision. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 credits. Prereq: Consent of instructor.

FAM 787 SUPERVISED PRACTICE OF COUPLE/FAMILY THERAPY. (1-6)

Intensive study of skills, issues, or treatment procedures in couple and family therapy. May be repeated to a maximum of eighteen credits. Prereq: Admission to the CFT master's program.

FAM 790 ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODS IN FAMILY SCIENCES. (3)

Advanced study of quantitative research methods, including but not limited to complex study designs, model building and structural equation modeling, reliability and validity of measures, statistical power and effect size, mediator and moderator variables, and identifying appropriate statistical techniques for specific types of problems. Prereq: FAM 690 and FAM 777, or equivalents.