

North Dakota State University's Department of Human Development and Family Science

Graduate School Tracks

For Undergraduate Students with an HDFS Major

Students who intend to pursue graduate degrees need special coursework to prepare them for entry to advanced degree programs. Pursuing a higher degree will broaden students' career opportunities and typically results in the attainment of higher paying jobs than those who have a bachelor's degree. Students who intend to go to graduate school need a greater emphasis on research and writing than other students. The courses listed below are required for entry into graduate school or will enhance your application.



Graduate School in Developmental Science/Human Development/ Child Development & Family Science/Psychology/Gerontology

With HDFS option requirements, the General classes will prepare students for graduate programs in their HDFS option or a related area.

GENERAL: recommended for HDFS students applying to ANY graduate school program.

Courses Typically Required

- STAT 330: Introduction to Statistics (ANOVA) (prereq: MATH 103, 104, or 107)
- PSYC 350 & 351: Research Methods I & II (prereq: STAT 330)
- or SOC 340 & 341: Soc Research Methods & Soc Research Methods Laboratory (prereq: STAT 330)
(The research methods classes listed above may be substituted for HDFS 250)
- HDFS 496: Field Experience 3 or more hours of field experience should be assisting a faculty member with research.

Recommended

- STAT 331: Regression Analysis (prereq: STAT 330)
 - HDFS 491: Seminar: Senior Thesis (3 hours of senior thesis can replace 3 hours of field experience)
- Take writing-intensive classes.
Take 400-level classes for electives.



IMPORTANT NOTE: Because graduate school program requirements vary greatly, students should investigate the programs to which they may want to apply to determine specific required classes.

Other things you should know.

- Grades - Get excellent grades. Most graduate programs require a minimum GPA of 3.0 (3.5 preferred). Performance during your Junior and Senior years is most important.
- Application Deadlines - Most graduate application deadlines are November to February for admission the following fall semester.
- Letters of Recommendation - Build relationships with your professors. You will likely need 2 to 3 positive letters of recommendation from faculty members.
- Pre-entry Tests - You may be required to take a standardized test such as the Graduate Record Exam (GRE), the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), or the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT). These are typically administered several times throughout the year. Sign up early enough to get scores for your graduate school application. Practice ahead of time.
- You can go directly into a doctorate program (Ph. D.) with your Bachelor's degree.
- Learning More – There is much to know about preparing for graduate school. Visit a website such as ...

www.gradschooltips.com/tips.htm

ADDITIONAL SPECIALTY AREAS

The classes listed below are recommended for students interested in pursuing graduate degrees in the following programs. Some of these classes will be required by graduate programs while others will give you an advantage over other applicants. In your junior year, begin investigating potential graduate programs and their admission requirements. Select classes based on those requirements and on your area of interest.

Counseling/Therapy/Social Work

Classes listed under “General” plus:

Courses Typically Required

- PSYC 270: Abnormal Psychology
- HDFS 496: Field Experience in an area closely related to your graduate school interests.

Recommended

- HDFS 242: Couples, Marriages, & Family
- HDFS 341: Parent Child Relations
- HDFS 425: Risk, Resil. & Comp. in Ch. & Ad.
- HDFS 435: Topics in Social Dev. - Abuse
- HDFS 448: Issues in Sexuality
- HDFS 462: Risk, Resil. & Comp. in Families
- SOC/PSYC 214: Social Interaction
- SOC 410: Social Inequity
- SOC 424: Feminist Theory
- SOC 439: Social Change
- PSYC 211: Intro to Behavior Modification
- PSYC 212: Psych Asp of Drug Use & Abuse
- WS 110: Introduction to Women’s Studies

Volunteer or paid hours in work related to your area of interest.

Suggested Minors: Psychology, Sociology, Women & Gender Studies



Financial Planning/Master’s of Business Administration (MBA)/Law School

HDFS Family Science Option plus:

Experiences Typically Required

- HDFS 496: Field Experience in an area closely related to your graduate school interests.

Recommended

- HDFS 353: Children, Families & Public Policy
 - HDFS 357: Personal & Family Finance
- Volunteer or paid hours in work related to your area of interest.*

Suggested Minors: Economics, Management Communication, Business Administration

Health Care/Master’s of Public Health/Applied Behavior Therapy

Classes listed under “General” plus:

Courses Typically Required

- BIOL 220+Lab: Human Anatomy Physiology I
- BIOL 221+Lab: Human Anatomy Physiology II
- HDFS 496: Field Experience in an area closely related to your graduate school interests.

Recommended

- HDFS 230: Lifespan Development OR the HDFS Developmental Series (320, 330, 450, 460)
- PSYC 270: Abnormal Psychology
- PSYC 280: Introduction to Health Psychology
- PSYC 474: Behav. Analysis in Dev. Disabilities
- PSYC 481: Health Psych (*prereq PSYC 350*)

Volunteer or paid hours in work related to your area of interest.

Suggested Minors: Biological Sciences, Exercise Science, Health Education, Physical Education, Psychology, Wellness

HDFS students may also consider pursuing graduate school in other areas such as Criminal Justice, Sociology, or Occupational Therapy. These programs may have extensive requirements. Review admission requirements for individual programs.