Why Should You Pursue a Graduate Degree in HDFS?

**Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS)**

Earning a master’s degree in this discipline allows students the opportunity to:

- Develop critical thinking skills based on research and used to make a positive impact on families.
- Create a more competitive resume to earn supervisory or administrative positions.
- Develop research skills to design and conduct a scholarly project (i.e., thesis) related to children and/or families in an area of your interest.
- Present your research at regional, national and international conferences and network with other professionals and/or graduate students.
- Publish a scholarly project with a faculty advisor.
- Prepare to pursue a doctorate degree.

**Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT)**

Earning a master’s degree in this discipline allows students the opportunity to:

- Develop clinical skills to be a professional working with children and families.
- Practice clinical skills through providing marriage and family therapy under the supervision of a licensed therapist.
- Meet qualifications for state licensure as a marriage and family therapist.
- Gain clinical membership in the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy.
- Network with other students training to be clinicians, educators, and/or professionals in your field.
- Prepare to pursue a doctorate degree.

**Parent and Family Life Educator (PAFLE)**

Earning a master’s degree in this discipline allows students the opportunity to:

- Develop professional skills to plan and implement preventive educational programs and intervention services for children and families.
- Gain knowledge of family systems, family strengths and contextual influences that impact family functioning.
- Develop skills to help individuals and families realize their potential.
- Network with other students training to be Certified Family Life Educators.
- Develop critical thinking skills to evaluate and deliver effective evidence-based family life education programs.
- Become a Certified Family Life Educator by the National Council on Family Relations.