

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY EDUCATION

Web Site: <https://twu.edu/human-development-family-studies-counseling/graduate-programs/early-childhood-development/>

The Ph.D. in Child Development and Early Education prepares students for advanced career opportunities working with children and families in a professional or academic setting. Students may choose a focus area in either Child Development or Early Childhood Education.

Marketable Skills

Defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's 60x30 Strategic Plan (<https://reportcenter.highered.texas.gov/agency-publication/miscellaneous/the60x30-strategic-plan/>) as, "Those skills valued by employers that can be applied in a variety of work settings, including interpersonal, cognitive, and applied skills areas. These skills can be either primary or complementary to a major and are acquired by students through education, including curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities."

1. Critically consume research literature.
2. Academic/scholarly writing skills.
3. Quantitative and qualitative research skills.

Admissions

All students must meet the University requirements as outlined in the Admission to the TWU Graduate School (<https://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/graduate-school/admission-graduate-school/>) section of the catalog.

The academic program may have additional admission criteria that must also be completed as outlined on the program's website.

Degree Requirements

Total Semester Credit Hours Required

A minimum of 78 semester credit hours (SCH) above the bachelor's degree (48 SCH beyond the master's), including 6 SCH for dissertation. 30 of the 78 SCH must be research courses. Consult with advisor for approved research courses.

Special Requirements

No grade below B is accepted towards any graduate degree in the Department of Human Development, Family Studies, and Counseling (HDFSC). If more than one grade below B is earned while enrolled in any HDFSC graduate program, the student will be dismissed from the program and will be ineligible to re-enroll in any program within the department for a period of 8 years.

Research Tools

The Department of HDFSC requires students to complete 12 SCH of research tools. The department has a list of courses that meet the research tool requirement, and these courses are part of the degree requirements listed below. They are also included in the 30 SCH of research-focused coursework required by the Graduate School.

Qualifying Exam

The Department of HDFSC administers a qualifying exam for each student prior to admission to candidacy. The student must complete the required research tools before being eligible to take the exam. Students must take the qualifying exam in their last or second-to-last semester of coursework. In no case may a student be excused from the qualifying exam, and students may not register for dissertation hours (HDFS 6983/ECE 6983 and HDFS 6993/ECE 6993) until they have successfully passed the exam and have been admitted to candidacy. The qualifying exam may only be repeated once. Students who fail two attempts at the qualifying exam will be dismissed from the program.

Dissertation and Final Examination

All students are required to complete a dissertation. Upon completion, the student will participate in an oral defense of the dissertation and the research upon which it is based. The student's advisory committee will determine the outcome of the exam. The final examination may only be repeated one time.

Prerequisite Coursework

The following pre-requisite courses (or equivalent content) must be completed in the master's degree or prior to beginning doctoral-level work (consult with advisor):

Child Development Focus

Code	Title	SCHs
HDFS 5223	Child Growth and Development in Early Childhood	3
HDFS 5243	Adolescent Development Within the Family	3
HDFS 5593	Play, Development, and the Young Learner	3
HDFS 5613	Child Guidance	3
HDFS 5643	The Development of Infants and Toddlers	3
HDFS 5693	Research Methods in Family Sciences	3

Early Childhood Education Focus

Code	Title	SCHs
HDFS 5693	Research Methods in Family Sciences	3
ECE 5203	Language and Literacy in Early Childhood	3
ECE 5213	Curriculum Development in Early Childhood	3
ECE 5263	Observation and Assessment in Early Childhood	3
ECE 5283	Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) in Early Childhood Education	3
ECE 5433	Brain-Based Learning for the Young Child	3
ECE 5773	School, Family, and Cultural Diversity: Community Connections	3

Degree Plan

Students must submit a degree plan which follows the degree requirements listed below. The degree plan should be developed in collaboration with the student's advisor and committee, and it should be filed after the student has completed 18 SCH of coursework.

Code	Title	SCHs
Prerequisites		
A master's degree in a closely related field and foundational coursework* specific to the chosen focus area		
Child Development and Early Education Core		

HDFS 5193	Statistics for Family Sciences	3
ECE 6513	Language and Cognitive Development in Young Children	3
ECE 6653	Seminar in Developmental Theory	3
ECE 6673	Advanced Seminar in Early Childhood Education	3
HDFS 6693	Advanced Quantitative Research Methods In Family Sciences	3
HDFS 6193	Advanced Statistics for Family Sciences	3
HDFS 6203	Frameworks and Ethics for Qualitative Research in Family Sciences	3
HDFS 6443	Research and Issues in Family Sciences	3
HDFS 6923	Research in Family Sciences	3
or ECE 6923	Research in Early Childhood Education	
Select one of the following Specialization/Focus Area		6
Child Development Focus		
HDFS 6003	Advanced Study of the Lifespan	
HDFS 6013	Social and Emotional Development in Childhood and Adolescence	
Early Childhood Education Focus		
ECE 6623	Social and Cultural Dimensions of Early Language Development	
ECE 6663	Foundations of Early Childhood Education	
Additional Content		9
Select three of the following		
HDFS 6303	Academic Life and Scholarship	
HDFS 6343	Effective College Teaching Methods	
HDFS 6433	Grants Writing in Family Sciences	
HDFS 6793	Advanced Qualitative Research Methods In Family Sciences	
HDFS 6893	Multivariate Statistics	
HDFS 6873	Dyadic and Longitudinal Analyses with Structural Equation Modeling	
HDFS 6593	Practicum in Family Sciences (with consent of advisor)	
Dissertation		6-12
HDFS 6983	Dissertation	
or ECE 6983	Dissertation	
HDFS 6993	Dissertation	
or ECE 6993	Dissertation	
Total SCHs		48-54