

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN FAMILY STUDIES

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

A master's degree in Family Studies prepares students for careers that involve strengthening families and creating positive futures for everyone. Potential career fields include human services, family and social service agencies serving families, and parent or family life education.

The M.S. in Family Studies has been approved by the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) as meeting the Standards and Criteria required for the provisional Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) designation.

The M.S. in Family Studies may be completed up to 100% online as well as in an accelerated format.

## 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. Leadership skills.
3. Written communication skills.
4. Critical thinking 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

**Thesis or Professional Paper Option:** 33 semester credit hours (SCH)

**Professional Portfolio Option:** 34 semester credit hours (SCH)

### 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 six years.

### Final Examination

In addition to the completion of a thesis, professional paper, or professional portfolio, students must participate in an oral defense of

their product. The student's advisory committee reviews and evaluates the product and determines the outcome. The advisory committee should consist of three faculty members, all of whom must hold Graduate Faculty status, and at least two of whom must be faculty from the Family Studies program.

## Certified Family Life Educator

The M.S. in Family Studies has been approved by the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) as meeting the Standards and Criteria required for the provisional Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) designation. Courses noted with an asterisk (\*) must be completed in order to qualify for the abbreviated CFLE application process.

## Thesis Option (33 SCH)

Code	Title	SCHs
<b>Core I</b>		
To be completed in first 2 semesters		
HDFS 5003	Lifespan Human Development (*)	3
HDFS 5123	Theories of the Family (*)	3
<b>Core II</b>		
HDFS 5823	Families and Public Policy (*)	3
HDFS 5833	Family Economics (*)	3
<b>Core III</b>		
HDFS 5193	Statistics for Family Sciences	3
HDFS 5693	Research Methods in Family Sciences	3
<b>Content Specialization</b>		
Select three of the following		9
HDFS 5023	Family Sexuality (*)	
HDFS 5103	Families as Consumers	
HDFS 5153	Family Changes and Diversity (*)	
HDFS 5233	Communication in Marriage and Family (*)	
HDFS 5243	Adolescent Development Within the Family	
HDFS 5253	Gender Role Development	
HDFS 5533	Parenting Education (*)	
HDFS 5573	Family Crises	
HDFS 5603	Aging in Families and Society	
HDFS 5663	Leadership and Staff Development in Family Sciences Programs	
HDFS 5713	Housing and Families	
HDFS 5803	Time Management for Families	
HDFS 5843	Teaching Family Sciences (*)	
HDFS 5933	Practicum in Family Sciences (*)	
<b>Professional Competency</b>		
Taken in final semesters		
HDFS 5983	Thesis	3
HDFS 5993	Thesis	3
<b>Total SCHs</b>		<b>33</b>

## Professional Paper Option (33 SCH)

Code	Title	SCHs
<b>Core I</b>		
To be completed in first 2 semesters		
HDFS 5003	Lifespan Human Development (*)	3
HDFS 5123	Theories of the Family (*)	3

<b>Core II</b>		
HDFS 5823	Families and Public Policy (*)	3
HDFS 5833	Family Economics (*)	3
<b>Core III</b>		
HDFS 5193	Statistics for Family Sciences	3
HDFS 5693	Research Methods in Family Sciences	3
<b>Content Specialization</b>		
Select four of the following		12
HDFS 5023	Family Sexuality (*)	
HDFS 5103	Families as Consumers	
HDFS 5153	Family Changes and Diversity	
HDFS 5233	Communication in Marriage and Family (*)	
HDFS 5243	Adolescent Development Within the Family	
HDFS 5253	Gender Role Development	
HDFS 5533	Parenting Education (*)	
HDFS 5573	Family Crises	
HDFS 5603	Aging in Families and Society	
HDFS 5663	Leadership and Staff Development in Family Sciences Programs	
HDFS 5713	Housing and Families	
HDFS 5803	Time Management for Families	
HDFS 5843	Teaching Family Sciences (*)	
HDFS 5933	Practicum in Family Sciences (*)	
<b>Professional Competency</b>		
Taken in final semester		
HDFS 5973	Professional Paper	3
<b>Total SCHs</b>		<b>33</b>

## Professional Portfolio Option (34 SCH)

Code	Title	SCHs
<b>Core I</b>		
To be completed in first 2 semesters		
HDFS 5003	Lifespan Human Development (*)	3
HDFS 5123	Theories of the Family (*)	3
<b>Core II</b>		
HDFS 5823	Families and Public Policy (*)	3
HDFS 5833	Family Economics (*)	3
<b>Core III</b>		
HDFS 5193	Statistics for Family Sciences	3
HDFS 5693	Research Methods in Family Sciences	3
<b>Content Specialization</b>		
Select five of the following		15
HDFS 5023	Family Sexuality (*)	
HDFS 5103	Families as Consumers	
HDFS 5153	Family Changes and Diversity (*)	
HDFS 5233	Communication in Marriage and Family (*)	
HDFS 5243	Adolescent Development Within the Family	
HDFS 5253	Gender Role Development	
HDFS 5533	Parenting Education (*)	
HDFS 5573	Family Crises	
HDFS 5603	Aging in Families and Society	
HDFS 5663	Leadership and Staff Development in Family Sciences Programs	

HDFS 5713	Housing and Families	
HDFS 5803	Time Management for Families	
HDFS 5843	Teaching Family Sciences (*)	
HDFS 5933	Practicum in Family Sciences (*)	
<b>Professional Competency</b>		
Taken in final semester		
HDFS 5931	Professional Portfolio	1
<b>Total SCHs</b>		<b>34</b>

## Family Resource Management Emphasis Option or Content Specialization

Code	Title	SCHs
<b>Family Resource Management Emphasis Option or Content Specialization</b>		
HDFS 5103	Families as Consumers	3
HDFS 5713	Housing and Families	3
HDFS 5803	Time Management for Families	3
HDFS 5833	Family Economics	3
HDFS 5843	Teaching Family Sciences	3
HDFS 5933	Practicum in Family Sciences	3
<b>Total SCHs</b>		<b>18</b>