

## **FAMILY SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM**

The Family Science major focuses on the study of families and the problems they face in society. The program emphasizes the family as a dynamic social unit and examines individual and family development over the life span. It also addresses social, cultural, historical, and economic trends that affect family functioning and development. Students study a wide range of family issues including changing family forms and lifestyles, family economics, inter-generational relations, family crises, legal problems, work and family issues, domestic violence, poverty, and human service delivery. Majors enhance their knowledge of family issues through the study of theories, policies, program management, and research.

The Family Science major prepares students for careers in human services, family counseling, family life education, social work, public health, policy analysis, business, and family mediation. A wide variety of employment opportunities exist for Family Science graduates in direct service and management positions in government, non-profit, and private agencies. The major also provides excellent preparation for graduate study in family studies, family therapy, social work, law, psychology, health education, human resource management, and other social science disciplines.

The Department awards a Bachelor of Science degree in Family Science. In addition to the University's CORE General Education program which requires 46 credits, the Family Science program requires 45 credits of its majors. The curriculum is as follows:

### **Required Courses:**

FMSC302 Research Methods in Family Science (3)  
FMSC330 Family Theories and Patterns (3)  
FMSC332 Children in Families (3)  
FMSC381 Poverty, Affluence, and Families (3)  
FMSC383 Delivery of Human Services (3)  
FMSC432 Intergenerational Aspects of Family Living (3)  
FMSC477 Internship and Analysis in Family Science (3)  
FMSC487 Legal Aspects of Family Problems (3)  
FMSC elective (3)\*  
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EDMS451 or STAT100 Statistics (3)  
PSYC100 Introduction to Psychology (3)  
SOCY100 Introduction to Sociology **or** SOCY105 Contemporary Social Problems (3)  
COMM100 **or** COMM107 Public Speaking **or** COMM125 Interpersonal Communications (3)  
FMSC290 Family Economics **or** ECON200 Introduction to Microeconomics **or** ECON201 Introduction to Macroeconomics

\*FMSC electives are selected from non-required courses with the FMSC prefix. No field work or independent study (e.g. FMSC399, 498) courses are allowed to fill this requirement. FMSC290 cannot be used as an FMSC elective, but it does fulfill the economics requirement.

The Family Science program allows for an additional 29 credits of electives to meet the University's requirement of 120 credits. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the department's advising system and choose elective that tailor their education to meet their career goals. The department has recommended "clusters" of courses that will prepare students for specific career directions, such as

counseling, family mediation, family policy, and management of work and family programs. These clusters are described in the Undergraduate Handbook.

### **The Internship Program**

Although college classrooms provide students with the theoretical background, accumulation of information, and other skills essential for many kinds of careers, it is only after students have had the chance to apply this learning in specific, practical situations that the learning becomes truly relevant to actual occupations. For these reasons, the department has a long-established internship program. Students in the seminar integrate classroom theory with their field placement and share work-related activities, broadening their exposure to work in the discipline of Family Science and their knowledge of specific career opportunities for department graduates.

### **Undergraduate Research Assistant Program**

The department actively participates in the University's Undergraduate Research Assistant Program (URAP), an exciting new program in which students can learn from and work with world-class scholars on family issues. Family Science undergraduates volunteer to assist department faculty with their ongoing research projects on such topics as family and community violence, homeless families, interracial marriages, AIDS education, adolescent depression, couple relationships, and marital standards in China.