

## **Job and Graduate School Opportunities for Students with a Bachelor of Science in Degree in Family Science**

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A common question of Family Science majors is “What can I do with this degree?” The Family Science major prepares students for a wide range of careers addressing family issues and provides an excellent foundation for graduate study in family studies, family therapy, law, psychology, sociology, social work, health, human resource management, and related fields. The following list gives you an idea of general areas in which Family Science graduates work and where they can look for jobs.

### **Careers**

**Human Service Professionals:** Develop, administer, and evaluate social service programs and conduct casework for individuals and families. Graduates work as family service specialists, administrative staff, counselors, youth workers, child life specialists, elder care workers, probation officers, researchers, and policy analysts. Job settings include social service/mental health agencies, government agencies, youth organizations, teen parent programs, hospitals, schools, consumer credit agencies, and senior centers.

**Work/Family Specialists:** Design and manage support programs for employees, including child care, elder care, leave/disability programs, flexible work policies, and health and wellness programs. Positions are located in personnel or human resource departments of major corporations and government agencies, including the armed services.

**Family Life/Parenting Educators:** Prepare, present, and evaluate educational programs designed to enhance family well-being, such as parent education, military relocation support, substance abuse education, and relationship enhancement. Positions are located in Cooperative Extensions, the armed services, and a variety of other public and private agencies.

**Family Policy Analysts:** Develop policy initiatives in such areas as child care, child abuse, and aging, and analyze the impact of policies on families. Policy analysts work for local, state, and federal government and public interest or advocacy groups.

### **Graduate or Professional Study**

The Family Science major is excellent preparation for graduate school in business, psychology, human development, gerontology, and other fields. Combined with other specialized course work, the Family Science major also may help to prepare graduates to enter law, dental, or medical school. The Family Science degree is especially helpful for specializations such as family law, pediatrics, geriatrics, family practice, behavioral medicine, and psychiatry.

## Skills and Abilities

The Family Science major equips students with a variety of general and technical skills which can be applied in both jobs and graduate/professional school. Some of these skills and abilities are summarized below.

<u>Project Development</u> Developing project designs Preparing a project proposal Writing a grant application Recruiting program participants Maintaining records Creating budgets and other spreadsheets Evaluating a program	<u>Interpersonal Relations</u> Interviewing Observing and coding human interactions Recognizing different value systems Working effectively in a multicultural setting Understanding group dynamics Working productively as a team member
<u>Analysis and Research</u> Designing research projects Evaluating theory and literature Sampling and recruiting research participants Selecting appropriate study instruments Using non-intrusive research methods Collecting data Using statistical software to analyze data Evaluating and presenting research findings	<u>Communication</u> Writing clearly Speaking effectively Making Power Point presentations Creating professional memoranda Presenting/defending/debating a position Briefing a legal case Communicating with clients from different cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds

## **Tips for Your Job Search**

Although your Family Science degree may qualify you for a number of positions, many jobs require special skills and work experience. We suggest that students begin developing professional contacts, join relevant disciplinary associations and clubs, and acquire relevant volunteer and work experience while they are completing their studies. Students should carefully select their required semester-long internship to reflect their professional goals. Those seeking a graduate or professional degree should attempt to complete an undergraduate research experience with a Family Science faculty member.

## **Learning More About Family Science**

Students seeking additional information about the Family Science major, including required coursework, internships, and undergraduate opportunities, should contact:

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