The Department of Human Development & Family Studies (HDFS) is committed to excellence in teaching, research, and service regarding human development and close relationships across the lifespan. Our objectives are to educate the next generation of HDFS professionals and scholars, to generate new knowledge, and to foster the well-being of individuals and families in their everyday lives. As a premier HDFS department, we focus on early care and education; child, youth, and family development; and aging while committed to interdisciplinary study, diversity, and internationalization.

Online degree-completion available

Degree Outcomes

- Graduates have gone onto graduate school for counseling, social work, human development and family studies, public health education, student personnel administration in higher education, and early childhood literacy employment.

- Graduates have gone on to work at the UNCG Child Care Education Program, Guilford Child Development, Guilford County Schools, Our Children’s Community School, Head Start and Early Head Start programs, individually-owned family child care homes, UNC TEACCH Autism Program, Tristan’s Quest, Family and Consumer Sciences, Greensboro Pregnancy Care Center, Act Together Crisis Center—Youth Focus, YWCA, and Department of Social Services.

The Student Experience

- Majors in the Child, Youth, and Family Development concentration complete internships in a variety of local agencies such as the Children’s Home Society, Family Service of the Piedmont, The Women’s Hospital, Tristan’s Quest, Greensboro Urban Ministry, and American Red Cross.

- Undergraduate students serve as research assistants for a variety of projects within Human Development and Family Studies.

- HDFS and the Department of Social Work offer a language and culture immersion in Costa Rica every other summer as an opportunity for students to increase their knowledge of Latino culture and improve their Spanish language skills. Participants have daily language instruction and stay with Costa Rican families.

Accolades & Accomplishments

- The Princeton Review recently reported that UNCG’s HDFS programs receive “enthusiastic praise from current students.”

- Dr. Arthur Anastopoulos received additional funding from the National Institutes of Health for the project “Longitudinal Outcome of College Students with ADHD.”

- Dr. Catherine Scott-Little received a continuation of funding from the
N.C. Department of Public Instruction for the project “Supporting Development of the N.C. K–3 Assessment.” The National Council on Family Relations awarded Dr. Heather Helms the 2015 Felix Berardo Scholarship in recognition of mentoring one or more junior colleagues.

• The master’s program Birth–Kindergarten Interdisciplinary Studies in Education & Development was ranked second in the country by The Best Schools.

• Dr. Mark Fine jointly published “The Darker Side of Family Communication: The harmful, the morally suspect, and the socially inappropriate.”

• Dr. Andrea Hunter, Director of the School of Health and Human Sciences Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and the HHSODI committee were awarded the Cultural Pluralism Award by the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions.

Additional Requirements

Any student may declare an HDFS major at any time. Formal admission to the major is required to take upper-level courses. Students in the Birth through Kindergarten concentration must be admitted to Teacher Education before they complete student teaching.