Twin Cities Campus

Family Social Science Ph.D.

Family Social Science

College of Education and Human Development

Link to a list of faculty for this program.

Contact Information:
Department of Family Social Science, 290 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55108 (612-625-3116; fax: 612-625-4227)
Email: fsosgrad@umn.edu
Website: http://www.cehd.umn.edu/fsos/

- Program Type: Doctorate
- Requirements for this program are current for Spring 2021
- Length of program in credits: 72 to 75
- This program does not require summer semesters for timely completion.
- Degree: Doctor of Philosophy

Along with the program-specific requirements listed below, please read the General Information section of the catalog website for requirements that apply to all major fields.

Family social science (FSoS) offers a unique program of study using insights and methods of the social sciences to examine how families work within various contexts and cultures. A doctoral degree in family social science provides a broad foundation of expertise in theory, research, and practice.

Your program of study will include research and coursework across the breadth of family social science, including child adjustment in family context; families and culture; families and financial decisions; family formation and intergenerational studies; families, loss, and trauma; and intimate family relationships. Coursework and research engagement, along with intensive mentoring from faculty, prepares students to contribute to the broader field of family science.

Accreditation

This program is accredited by Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Prerequisites for Admission

The preferred undergraduate GPA for admittance to the program is 3.00.

Other requirements to be completed before admission:
Three overall criteria guide admissions decisions: 1) evidence of strong academic preparation and the ability and desire to perform graduate level scholarship, including research; 2) fit of the applicant's professional goals with family social science (FSoS) faculty scholarship and with the overall FSoS mission, that is, enhancing the well-being of diverse families in a changing world; and 3) unique contributions the applicant would make to FSoS values, including social relevance, collaboration, inclusiveness, excellence, innovation, and diversity.

Special Application Requirements:
Family Science Specialization:
Students may apply for admission to the Family Science Ph.D. specialization after completing either a Bachelor's degree or a Master's degree. If you do not already hold a Master's degree, you may apply for the combined Master's/Ph.D. Program.

Couple & Family Therapy Specialization:
The Couple & Family Therapy Ph.D. specialization features rigorous training in couple and family therapy research informed by diverse disciplines and perspectives.

This specialization is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education. Admission to the Couple & Family Therapy specialization is available to applicants who have already obtained a clinical Master's degree, or have achieved equivalent clinical experience as determined by the CFT Faculty.

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International applicants must submit score(s) from one of the following tests:

- TOEFL
  - Internet Based - Total Score: 79
  - Internet Based - Writing Score: 21
  - Internet Based - Reading Score: 19
  - Paper Based - Total Score: 550
- IELTS
  - Total Score: 6.5
- MELAB
  - Final score: 80

Key to test abbreviations(TOEFL, IELTS, MELAB).

For an online application or for more information about graduate education admissions, see the General Information section of the catalog website.

Program Requirements

48 to 51 credits are required in the major.
0 credits are required outside the major.
24 thesis credits are required.

This program may be completed with a minor.

Use of 4xxx courses towards program requirements is not permitted.

A minimum GPA of 3.5 is required for students to remain in good standing.

Courses in the PhD degree program must contribute to an organized program of study and research. The program requires at least 72 credits, including a minimum of 48 course credits and 24 dissertation credits. Coursework includes at least 23 credits in core family theory and research methods, 9 credits in statistics, and 7 credits of directed research. Students are admitted to one of two designated specializations: family science (9 additional credits) or couple and family therapy (12 additional credits).

Students are also required to publish in peer-reviewed journals, present at disciplinary conferences, and demonstrate teaching ability, the ability to translate research into practice, and professional service and leadership. Additionally, all students are required to write research, teaching, outreach and engagement, and leadership and professional service statements. Students in the clinical track are also required to write two Theories of Change papers.

Core Requirements

Take the following courses for a total of 23 credits:
FSOS 8200 - Orientation for Family Social Science (1.0 cr)
FSOS 8001 - Conceptual Frameworks in the Family (3.0 cr)
FSOS 8002 - Advanced Family Conceptual Frameworks (3.0 cr)
FSOS 8013 - Qualitative Family Research Methods (3.0 cr)
FSOS 8015 - Advanced Qualitative Family Research Methods (3.0 cr)
FSOS 5014 - Quantitative Family Research Methods I (3.0 cr)
FSOS 5015 - Family Research Laboratory (1.0 cr)
FSOS 8014 - Quantitative Family Research Methods II (3.0 cr)
FSOS 8101 - Family Stress, Coping, and Adaptation (3.0 cr)

Directed Research

Take FSOS 8794 during the first three years of the program for a total of 7 credits.
Take 7 or more credit(s) from the following:
•FSOS 8794 - Directed Research in Family Social Science (1.0 - 6.0 cr)

Statistics or Methods

Take one of the following statistics/methods sequences for a total of 9 credits:

Family Science

EPSY 8251 - Statistical Methods in Education I (3.0 cr)
EPSY 8252 - Statistical Methods in Education II (3.0 cr)
Advanced Statistics or Methods (3.0 cr)
or EPSY 8264 - Advanced Multiple Regression Analysis (3.0 cr)
or EPSY 8266 - Statistical Analysis Using Structural Equation Methods (3.0 cr)
or EPSY 8267 - Applied Multivariate Analysis (3.0 cr)

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or EPSY 8268 - Hierarchical Linear Modeling in Educational Research (3.0 cr)
or EPSY 8282 - Statistical Analysis of Longitudinal Data (3.0 cr)
or NURS 8185 - Qualitative Data Analysis for Health Care Research (3.0 - 4.0 cr)
or NURS 8195 - Mixed Methods Research (2.0 cr)

or **Couple & Family Therapy**

EPSY 8251 - Statistical Methods in Education I (3.0 cr)
EPSY 8252 - Statistical Methods in Education II (3.0 cr)
FSOS 8036 - Couple/Marriage and Family Therapy Research (3.0 cr)

Specialization Requirements

Family Science Specialization

Family Science Electives

Take at least 6 credits in consultation with advisor.
FSOS Elective
or PREV 8001 - Prevention Science: Principles and Practices (3.0 cr)

Community/Engagement/Internship Experience

Take 3 credits of coursework to fulfill the specialization's community, engagement, or internship experience requirement, chosen in consultation with advisor.
FSOS 8193 - Directed Study in Family Social Science (1.0 - 6.0 cr)
or Elective (3.0 cr)

-OR-

Couple & Family Therapy Specialization Requirements

Family Therapy Supervision

Take 3 or more credit(s) from the following:
•FSOS 8034 - Marriage and Family Therapy Supervision (3.0 cr)

Family Therapy Practicum

Take FSOS 8295 twice for a total of 6 credits.
Take 6 or more credit(s) from the following:
•FSOS 8196 - Couple/Marriage Family Therapy Practicum (1.0 - 6.0 cr)

Family Therapy Internship

Take 3 or more credit(s) from the following:
•FSOS 8296 - Couple/ Marriage Family Therapy Internship (1.0 - 12.0 cr)

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