



PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

HHS IS | HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & FAMILY STUDIES



THE GOOD LIFE

The 21st century is a period of rapid change as individuals live longer, families take different forms, work environments shift and many struggle to make ends meet. Addressing these issues to improve the human condition is the work of the Department of Human Development and Family Studies.

From an emphasis on child development and family living in its early years, HDFS has expanded to meet the changing demands of children, families and individuals. Today, there is an increased focus on aging and other critical issues that contribute to well-being across the life course.

Graduates are prepared for careers in research, teaching and professional practice. And our innovative outreach efforts extend knowledge to policymakers, professionals, employers, the people of Indiana and beyond.





EDUCATION WITH REAL-WORLD APPLICATION

The interdisciplinary environment of Human Development and Family Studies brings a wide variety of perspectives and methods to undergraduate education. Students gain knowledge about development, health and well-being throughout the life span and have the opportunity to work with infants, children, youth, adults and families.

All programs emphasize hands-on learning such as student teaching, internships and undergraduate research. Study abroad opportunities allow students to study children and families in other cultures.

The Ben and Maxine Miller Child Development Laboratory School provides high-quality early education and child care for families in the community and serves as a training site for Purdue students. The school also provides a site for child development and early education research in areas as diverse as math education, dietary preferences, engineering education and educational technology.

The department offers four majors:

- **Early Childhood Education and Exceptional Needs**
- **Developmental and Family Science**
- **Family and Consumer Sciences Education**
- **Human Services**

A majority of graduates hold professional positions in the child and family field. Others work in social service agencies or health care. More than one-fifth of HDFS graduates in the past 10 years have pursued graduate degrees in human development, counseling or social work.



**THE NEW HANLEY HALL AND FOWLER HOUSE TOGETHER PROVIDE
A HOME FOR THE DEPARTMENT, CENTER FOR FAMILIES,
MILITARY FAMILY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BEN AND MAXINE
MILLER CHILD DEVELOPMENT LABORATORY SCHOOL,
AND CENTER FOR AGING AND THE LIFE COURSE.**

A FOCUS ON APPLIED RESEARCH

Knowledge generation is a major departmental goal, and graduate students benefit from cross-disciplinary research and a strong record of intramural and extramural funding that emphasizes applied research and scholarship. Students are admitted to the doctoral degree program and prepared for careers as research scientists.

Research focuses on human development from infancy through old age, children's learning and schools, families and the contexts in which they live and work, biological processes, culture, and relationships and health. Examples of current research projects include:

- Development and evaluation of professional development interventions with pre-kindergarten teachers aimed at enhancing the early literacy and language development of at-risk populations
- Examining the link between parent-child relationships and adolescent academic achievement and school engagement
- Investigating the dyadic processes of married couples managing chronic illness in middle and late life
- Development of interactive, online tools for helping parents teach their children about healthy routines related to nutrition, physical activity, sleep and obesity prevention
- International collaborations are underway with researchers in Colombia on attachment relationships and with partners in Indonesia, China and Thailand studying child and adolescent development



The department houses two centers focused on supporting families:

- **Center for Families:** The center strengthens the capacity of families to provide a nurturing environment by serving as a catalyst for research, outreach and education. It facilitates collaboration among professionals, policymakers, employers, and human service professionals regarding the vital roles of children and families in society.
- **Military Family Research Institute:** Through research and outreach programs aimed at civilian and military groups, MFRI works to improve quality of life for military families. The institute collaborates with the Department of Defense, USDA and others to conduct research on and for military families.

WHERE IMPACT MEETS ACCESS

Consistent with Purdue's land-grant mission, a major focus of the department is translating research into programs and resources that benefit individuals and families in Indiana and beyond. We address the real challenges people face every day — finding quality child care, balancing work and family, improving relationships, and successful aging.

The Military Family Research Institute has a strong outreach component with many programs designed to assist veterans, their children and families.

Human Development Extension develops research-based education delivered locally by Extension educators throughout Indiana. Educational programs and resources are available on aging, parenting/care for children, relationships, school readiness and violence prevention.

LEARN MORE AT WWW.PURDUE.EDU/HHS/HDFS

PURDUE

HEALTH & HUMAN SCIENCES

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