

HDFS GRADUATE PROGRAM LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Adopted by vote at HDFS staff meeting on April 6, 2009.

Content

- a. Students gain an indepth understanding of the major theories, approaches, concepts, and current and classic research findings related to Human Development & Family Studies.
- b. Students develop an understanding of how individuals and families develop within multiple community, cultural, economic, historical, policy, and interpersonal contexts.
- c. Students recognize the nature and significance of diversity (e.g., cultural, economic, racial/ethnic, developmental, and social class) as it relates to knowledge in their field of study.
- d. Students are expected to achieve breadth in HDFS at the same time they develop expertise in a particular area.

Research Methods and Critical Analysis

- a. Students become competent producers of original research by identifying questions for meaningful inquiry, selecting appropriate designs, techniques, and completing procedures for information collection, processing, and analysis.
- b. Students develop the critical thinking skills to become competent consumers of research by evaluating the quality, value, and construction of research and theory in the behavioral and social sciences.
- c. Students gain an understanding of quantitative and qualitative analytical techniques that can be used for processing and analyzing social science data.
- d. Students develop critical thinking skills to evaluate, integrate, and synthesize different forms of knowledge.
- e. Students learn to appreciate and understand the diverse perspectives and methods of different disciplines.
- f. Students develop skills related to gathering scholarly literature, critically reviewing it, and writing integrative reviews.

Application, Dissemination, & Professional Skills

- a. Students learn how to apply theory and research methods to societal issues.

- b. Students will acquire skills related to the translation of knowledge for policymakers, practitioners, and/or the public.
- c. Students will develop skills related to the ability to educate others in campus or off-campus settings.
- d. Students will develop skills related to collaboration and consultation with diverse audiences as appropriate to their professional goals inside and outside the academy.
- e. Students will develop skills related to writing for scholarly, professional, and lay audiences.
- f. Students will develop skills related to presenting or teaching audiences of students, professionals, and the public.
- g. Students will develop skills related to securing funding to support research and outreach projects.
- h. Students will develop skills related to ethics in research.