

## Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies

Penn State Harrisburg offers the Life Span Human Service option of Human Development and Family Studies. This option focuses on the acquisition and application of scientific knowledge about development and family functioning across the life span for the purposes of enhancing personal and family development.

Students obtain a broad background in individual and family development across the life span. Through course work and undergraduate internships or research projects, students develop skills relevant to career objectives, such as counseling, human assessment, program planning and evaluation, and research.

### Contact

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Content reviewed and approved Mon Jan 9, 2024 17:05:35 pm



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**PennState**  
Harrisburg

**School of Behavioral  
Sciences and Education**



**Bachelor of Science in  
Human Development and  
Family Studies**

## Curriculum

The Life Span Human Service option of Human Development and Family Studies focuses on the acquisition and application of scientific knowledge about development and family functioning across the life span for the purposes of enhancing personal and family development.

An approved field experience in a setting that serves children, youth, adults, or the aged is required for this option. Typical employment settings include preschools, daycare centers, hospital programs for children, youth, and families, institutional and community mental health programs for individuals and families, programs for abused or neglected children and adolescents, women's resource centers, human resources programs, employee assistance programs, nursing homes, area agencies on aging and other community settings for older adults, and public welfare and family service agencies. Typical postgraduate pursuits of students completing this option include graduate study in human development, family studies, psychology, or sociology, or advanced professional training in psychology, law, behavioral health, counseling or social work.

For the B.S. degree in Human Development and Family Studies, a minimum of 120 credits is required.

## Courses Overview

For the B.S. degree in Human Development and Family Studies, a minimum of 120 credits is required. Scheduling Recommendation by Semester Standing given like (Sem: 1-2). In addition to [General Education requirements](#) (45 credits), this major requires the following:

**FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR:** (Included in ELECTIVES or GENERAL EDUCATION course selection)

UNITED STATES CULTURES AND INTERNATIONAL CULTURES:  
(Included in ELECTIVES, GENERAL EDUCATION course selections, or REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR)

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM:  
(Included in REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR)

ELECTIVES: 3-5 credits

**REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR:** 73-76 credits (This includes 3-4 credits of General Education GQ courses.)

**COMMON REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR (ALL OPTIONS):** 30-31 credits

**PRESCRIBED COURSES** (18 credits)[1]  
HD FS 129 GS(3), HD FS 301(3), HD FS 311(3), HD FS 312W(3),  
HD FS 315 US(3)[93], HD FS 418(3) (Sem: 3-6)

**ADDITIONAL COURSES** (12-13 credits)[1], **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE LIFE SPAN HUMAN SERVICES OPTION:** (43-45 credits), **PRESCRIBED COURSES** (9 credits)[1], **ADDITIONAL COURSES** (22-24 credits)[1], **SUPPORTING COURSES AND RELATED AREAS** (12 credits).

[1] A student enrolled in this major must receive a grade of C or better, as specified in Senate Policy 82-44.

[92] This course is in addition to the 6 credits of United States Cultures and International Cultures.

[93] This course fulfills the University's United States Cultures requirement.

Visit for complete details.

## Undergraduate Admissions Requirements

Minimum high school course requirements for admission to baccalaureate (four-year) degree programs are listed below. Keep in mind that specific programs may have additional requirements or recommendations.

### English

Four units, including one unit each in composition and literature, are required.

### Social Studies/Art/Humanities

Three units in any combination of social studies, arts, and humanities are required.

### World Language

Two units in a single world language other than English are required. However, a student may be admitted with fewer than two units in a world language other than English, but must correct this deficiency by the time s/he earns 60 credits or graduates from Penn State, whichever comes first. This deficiency may be corrected by passing one three- or four-credit college level world language course or by demonstrating proficiency equivalent to two units of high school world language study.

Either a third unit in the same language or an additional unit in a second world language other than English is recommended.

### Science

Three units of science are required  
Preparation in chemistry and physics is recommended but not required for our Science and Engineering/Engineering Technology programs

### Math

Three units of mathematics are required (four are recommended), selected from any combination of algebra, geometry, and trigonometry  
Some programs have additional mathematics requirements. Our Business, Engineering/Engineering Technology, and Science programs require one-half unit of trigonometry or higher level math within the required three units

Penn State requires proof of graduation or a GED for admission to four-year degree programs.

\*In most high school curricula, one unit = one year.

Visit Undergraduate Admissions: Admissions Requirements for more information (<http://goo.gl/eVGAMB>)