FAMILY SCIENCE (FMSC)

Graduate Degree Program
College: Public Health

Abstract

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program in Family Science provides an interdisciplinary, research-oriented approach to the discovery and application of knowledge about families. This exciting program examines both internal family processes and the dynamic interaction of families with the biological, psychological, social, political, and economic aspects of their environment. Graduates are prepared for a number of careers in the public, non-profit, and private sectors, including university teaching, research, family policy analysis, and administrative positions in human service programs.

The Ph.D. program adopts an ecological or systems approach to the study of families and the problems they face in today's society. The program of study provides doctoral students with a broad knowledge of family theory, research methodology, family policy, family programs, ethnic families, and major issues confronting contemporary families. Students also learn to design, implement, and evaluate culturally-sensitive interventions addressing family needs and to analyze the consequences of public/private policies on family well-being.

Students applying to the PhD program in Family Science should have a Master's degree in Family Science or a related behavioral or social science. From time to time, a student who seeks to combine clinical work with research is accepted into the Family Science Ph.D. program with only a Bachelor's degree, but they must also simultaneously apply to, and be accepted into the Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Couple and Family Therapy. They then must complete this degree before beginning the Ph.D. program.

The Department of Family Science prepares students to describe, explain, and improve the quality of family life through applied research, education, therapy, human services, policy analysis, and advocacy. The approach is interdisciplinary, emphasizing individual, interpersonal, and social change. The program of study is based on a system or ecological paradigm, combining the perspectives of interrelated professional fields including family science, couple and family therapy, maternal and child health, family policy, behavioral science, and human services. Graduates are prepared for careers in the public, non-profit and private sectors, including university teaching, research, family policy analysis, and administrative positions in human service and public health programs.

Financial Assistance

Fellowships and Graduate Assistantships are available to students admitted into the Family Science Ph.D. program.

Contact

Department of Family Science
1142 School of Public Health Building
4200 Valley Drive
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742
Phone: 301.405.3672
Fax: 301.314.9161

Director of Graduate Studies
Admissions FAQ: https://sph.umd.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/graduate-application-faqs

Requirements

- Family Science, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/family-science-fmsc/family-science-phd/)

Facilities and Special Resources

The University's close proximity to the nation's capital, the state capital in Annapolis, federal executive departments, and headquarters of national professional and public interest associations provide research and internship placements for studying family policy unmatched by any other graduate program in the discipline. The Washington-Baltimore metropolitan area offers rich opportunities for research on culturally and socioeconomically diverse families. The campus and department have excellent computer facilities. Students have ready access to the University's extensive library systems, as well as holdings from the Library of Congress, the National Institutes of Health, National Library of Medicine, National Archives, and many other library collections.

Center for Healthy Families: This Center is the training and research arm of the Couple and Family Therapy Program in the Department of Family Science. Departmental graduate students and faculty provide clinical and educational services to families from surrounding communities in this state-of-the-art facility. Master’s and doctoral students use data collected at the Center for research projects.