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 and health. This exciting program examines both internal family processes and the dynamic interaction of families with the biological, psychological, social, policy, and economic aspects of their environment. 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-informed interventions addressing family needs and to analyze the consequences of public/private policies on family health and well-being.

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.

Students applying to the PhD program in Family Science must have a Master’s degree in Family Science or a related behavioral or social science.

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

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Website: https://sph.umd.edu/academics/doctoral-degrees/phd-family-science
Relationships: Epidemiology (EPID) (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/epidemiology-epid/) Psychology (PSYC) (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/psychology-psyc/) Sociology (SOCY) (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/sociology-socy/)

ADMISSIONS


GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

• A Bachelor’s degree
• Minimum 3.0 undergraduate GPA
• Transcripts from all previous coursework
• English proficiency test score (TOEFL, IELTS or PTE) (international applicants (https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency-requirements/))
• Statement of purpose and objectives, including career and educational goals, professional experience, and research areas of interest

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

• Letters of Recommendation (3)
• CV/Resume
• One writing sample is required. Example writing samples include published manuscript, undergraduate or graduate thesis, research paper, etc. If you submit a published manuscript and you are not the first author, describe the contributions you made to the publication.
• Diversity Statement
• Supplementary Application (required)
• GRE scores are waived for this program. Please do not submit GRE test scores.
• Applicants being considered for the program will be invited for an interview.

IN-PERSON INTERVIEW DATES: February 08, 2024; February 01, 2024; February 06, 2024, January 30, 2024

Note for applicants with foreign credentials:

• The UMD graduate application requires the upload of unofficial transcripts issued in the original language along with a literal English translation. Visit the Graduate School website for additional information (https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/international-admissions/)
• Evidence of English Language proficiency is required if the applicant does not hold a degree from a U.S. institution or from one of the English-speaking countries listed on the Graduate School website (https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency-requirements/)
**Application Deadlines**

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<th>Type of Applicant</th>
<th>Fall Deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic Applicants</td>
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<tr>
<td>US Citizens and Permanent Residents</td>
<td>December 1, 2023</td>
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<td>International Applicants</td>
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<td>F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A, E, G, H, I and L visas, and immigrants</td>
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In-Person Interview Dates: January 30, 2024; February 1, 2024; February 06, 2024; February 8, 2024

**RESOURCES AND LINKS:**

- Program Website: [https://sph.umd.edu/academics/doctoral-degrees/phd-family-science](https://sph.umd.edu/academics/doctoral-degrees/phd-family-science)
- Admissions FAQ: [https://sph.umd.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/graduate-application-faqs](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](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.