

# FAMILY SCIENCE MAJOR

**Academic Advisor:** Kendyl Oliver

The Family Science major provides an interdisciplinary focus on the study of families, health and the problems they face in contemporary society. The major offers excellent training in scientific methods to understand family development, behavior, strengths and challenges. Students learn to describe, explain, and improve the quality of family life through education, applied research, legal and policy analysis, and human services program management. Majors acquire skills in writing, speaking, and computing across the Family Science curriculum. As part of the required research course, all students design a study, collect data, prepare, and present an empirical research project prior to graduation.

The Family Science major prepares students for many career paths in areas including family therapy, public health, family life education, social work, law, policy analysis, human services, and family mediation. A wide variety of employment opportunities exist for Family Science graduates in direct service and management positions in government, non-profit, and private agencies. The major also provides excellent preparation for graduate study in family science, marriage and family therapy, social work, professional schools such as medicine, dentistry and law, public health, psychology, human resource management, and other social science disciplines.

Courses offered by this department are listed under the acronym **FMSC**.

## Admission to the Major

Upper-level students who wish to change or declare a major in Family Science can only do so through a Change of Major Workshop. To register for a workshop, visit the School of Public Health website (<https://sph.umd.edu/academics/advising-resources/undergraduate-center-academic-success-and-achievement/casa-advising/casa-declare-sph-major/>). Students must register in advance in order to attend a Change of Major Workshop. Freshman or admitted high school seniors may declare the FMSC major at orientation.

## Program Learning Outcomes

1. Students evaluate policy and programmatic interventions to address social and behavioral factors that influence family well-being.
2. Students demonstrate the principles of cultural competence that shape the experiences and disparities of vulnerable families and populations.
3. Students create a hypothesis, conduct research, prepare data and present a research project that addresses a significant issue of family well-being.
4. Students demonstrate basic knowledge of family theories and apply the knowledge to diverse contexts, including experientially in the required workshop.
5. Students analyze and critique the range of social structures and systems including health, legal, and economic that affect family well-being.

## Requirements

*All students must earn a grade of "C-" or better in all courses applied toward completion of the major.*

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses - Major Subject Area</b>		
SPHL100	Foundations of Public Health	3
FMSC302	Research Methods in Family Science	3
FMSC310	Maternal, Child and Family Health	3
FMSC330	Family Theories and Patterns	3
FMSC332	Children in Families	3
FMSC381	Poverty, Affluence, and Families	3
FMSC383	Delivery of Human Services to Families	3
FMSC432	Adult Development and Aging in Families	3
FMSC477	Internship and Analysis in Family Science	3
FMSC487	Family Law	3
<b>Required Courses - Department Electives</b>		
Select six additional FMSC departmental credits <sup>1</sup>		6
<b>Additional Courses Required of All Majors</b>		
PSYC100	Introduction to Psychology	3
Select one of the following:		3
FMSC290	Family Economics	
ECON200	Principles of Microeconomics	
ECON201	Principles of Macroeconomics	
EDMS451	Introduction to Educational Statistics	3
or STAT100	Elementary Statistics and Probability	
SOCY100	Introduction to Sociology	3
or SOCY105	Introduction to Contemporary Social Problems	
Select one of the following:		3
COMM100	Foundations of Oral Communication	
COMM107	Oral Communication: Principles and Practices	
COMM125		
COMM200	Critical Thinking and Speaking	
INAG110	Oral Communication	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>51</b>

<sup>1</sup> FMSC105 and FMSC298F cannot be used to meet this requirement unless they are taken before the student completes 60 credits. For questions about independent studies and fieldwork, please consult an advisor.

## Four Year Plan

Click here (<http://sph.umd.edu/content/four-year-plans/>) for roadmaps for four-year plans in the School of Public Health.

Additional information on developing a four-year academic plan can be found on the following pages:

- 4yearplans.umd.edu (<http://4yearplans.umd.edu/>)
- the Student Academic Success-Degree Completion Policy (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/registration-academic-requirements-regulations/academic-advising/>) section of this catalog