FAMILY SCIENCE MAJOR

Academic Advisor: Kendyl Oliver

The Department of Family Science promotes the physical, mental, and social well-being of all families in order to eliminate the burden of disease and health disparities, and to foster resilience and social justice. As one of the only Family Science departments in a school of public health in the US, the undergraduate program is uniquely positioned to train students in the study of family health. Faculty bring the synergies of multiple disciplines, including family science, couple and family therapy, human development, maternal and child health, psychology, epidemiology, and economics, to enhance family health and well-being.

The curriculum focuses on individual and family development over the life course, examining social, cultural, economic, and historical trends that affect family functioning, and their physical and mental health. 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. The major offers excellent training in scientific methods, including data analyses, application, and communication. Required coursework examines challenges to family health, diverse families, mental health and trauma, global health, child/family development, maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health, social inequality and health disparities, sexual and gender diversity, family law and economics, work and family issues, family crises, research methods, and the delivery of human services to families. As part of the required research course, all students design a study, collect data, prepare, and present an empirical research project prior to graduation.

Family Science graduates are the next generation of investigators, practitioners, and policy leaders who can tackle the complex health challenges facing families. The major prepares students for many career paths including family therapy, public health, family life education, social work, law, policy analysis, human services, nursing, 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, public health, marriage and family therapy, social work, professional schools such as medicine, nursing, dentistry and law, 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

Required Courses - Major Subject Area (45 Credits)

SPHL100 Foundations of Public Health 3
FMSC110 Families and Global Health 3
FMSC260 Couples, Marriage, and Families: Intimate Relationship Across the Life Course 3
FMSC302 Research Methods in Family Science 3
FMSC310 Maternal, Child and Family Health 3
FMSC330 Family Health: Health Happens in Families 3
FMSC332 Children in Families 3
FMSC340 Mental Health and Healing in Families 3
FMSC374 Working with Diverse Families in Public Health Services 3
FMSC381 Family Inequality 3
FMSC383 Health and Human Services Delivery and Evaluation 3
FMSC432 Adult Development and Aging in Families 3
FMSC477 Internship and Analysis in Family Science 3
FMSC487 Family Law 3
FMSC431 Family Crises, Emergencies and Interventions 3 or FMSC460 Violence in Families

Required Courses - Department Electives 12

Two (2) 100-200 level FMSC courses (6 credits)
Two (2) 300-400 level FMSC courses (6 credits)

Additional Courses Required of All Majors

Select one of the following social sciences general courses: 3
PSYC100 Introduction to Psychology
SOCY100 Introduction to Sociology
SOCY105 Introduction to Contemporary Social Problems

Select one of the following statistics general courses: 3
EDMS451 Introduction to Educational Statistics
STAT100 Elementary Statistics and Probability

Select one of the following communication general courses: 3
COMM107 Oral Communication: Principles and Practices
COMM200 Critical Thinking and Speaking
INAG110 Oral Communication

Select one of the following economics general courses: 3
FMSC290 Family Economics
ECON200 Principles of Microeconomics

Family Science Major
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