Human Development and Family Science
Bachelor of Arts in Human Development and Family Science

PROGRAM FEATURES
- This degree program integrates psychology, sociology, family science, and education—creating a course of study that prepares students to be an advocate for individuals and families in schools, communities, elder care settings, advocacy groups, and more.
- Because this program studies how humans and families develop over their lifecycle, students are career-ready when they graduate, able to enter jobs that promote mental and physical wellness, healthy parenting, child development, and senior care.
- For students wishing to continue their studies, this undergraduate degree is an excellent foundation for any of a number of graduate tracks, including Counseling/Family Therapy, Education, Family Law, Public Policy, and more.
- Mason’s proximity to DC makes it an ideal place to explore the impacts of new ideas and public policy in education, community development, family counseling/support programs, and elder care communities.

EXAMPLE CAREERS
- Family Life Educator
- Child Life Specialist
- Early Childhood Educator
- Family-Child Advocate
- Youth Organizations, Schools, and Parent Liaison Offices
- Senior Community Social Coordinator

Family and Child Research Assistant
- With further education:
  - Marriage and Family or School Counselor
  - Licensed Early Childhood/Elementary Teacher
  - Allied Health Professional such as Occupational, Physical, or Speech Therapist

FORMAT
- 120 credits
- Classes at Mason’s Fairfax campus and some offered online
- Internships in the Northern Virginia and DC metro area
INTERESTING FACTS

- For Human Development and Family Science graduates, the job market is strong. According to the Bureau of Labor, demand for Family Life Educators is slated to increase 28%, and Child Life Specialists will increase 7% through 2026.¹

- This program is designed around core learning outcomes, including culture and diversity in individuals, families, and communities; family systems, processes, and interpersonal relationships; human development across the life course; and individual and family ethics, practices, and scholarship.

- This program can be combined with one of several master’s programs at Mason, such as Counseling, Education, or a related field. Some master’s programs offer an accelerated path that can be started as an undergraduate student and completed within one year after finishing a bachelor’s degree at Mason.

¹Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Labor

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Visit admissions.gmu.edu for undergraduate and transfer admissions requirements.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

FRESHMAN
Non-Binding Early Action Deadline: November 1
Regular Decision Deadline: January 15

TRANSFER
Fall Priority Application: March 1

WHAT STUDENTS SAY

“With the Human Development and Family Science program, I could dive into a little bit of everything. I got to take psych classes. I got to take sociology classes. I got to take criminology. It was great because I have a background in a lot of different areas. And I was able to go on to get a job with a Georgetown research institute where I examined issues around child welfare, juvenile justice and gun violence among DC area youth. Mason made that possible.”

—Kia Jackson, BA Human Development and Family Science ’16

CONTACT INFORMATION

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