



# 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.<sup>1</sup>
- 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.

<sup>1</sup>Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Labor

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Visit [admissions.gmu.edu](https://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

College of Education and Human Development  
Office of Admissions  
4400 University Drive, MS 4D1  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030  
[cehd@gmu.edu](mailto:cehd@gmu.edu)  
703-993-2892