ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Students will learn about factors that influence individual and family development throughout the lifespan. Through lenses of diverse cultures and society, students focus on encouraging healthy and effective family and individual functioning.

PROGRAM STRENGTHS

→ **Real-Life Experience in Settings Throughout the World.** Internship, field experience and other learning experiences will grow your resume, enhance your understanding of current issues, help you gain valuable work experience and grow your professional network.

→ **Flexibility of Coursework.** Complete classes online or on-campus, in full semester (15 weeks) or half-semester (7 weeks) offerings.

→ **Accelerated Degree Program.** Eligible students can earn both their bachelor’s and master’s degrees in five years and receive their first year of graduate coursework at the undergraduate tuition level.

→ **Approved by the National Council on Family Relations.** Become a Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE), which enhances employment opportunities and verifies professional credibility for educators who work with families.

The child and family development and family studies concentrations are available fully online.

96% of 2017-18 WMU family science graduates were employed in their field within three months of graduation.
MAJORS

→ Child and Family Development focuses on the development of infants, toddlers, preschoolers, school-age children and their families. This program is available face-to-face, online and hybrid. Career possibilities include:
  • Parent educators
  • Family Protective Service caseworkers
  • Parent Support, Head Start and Early On programs
  • Adoption service worker
  • Child care teachers and directors

→ Family Studies is designed to address a wide array of social and development topics impacting youth to seniors. This program is available face-to-face, online and hybrid. Career possibilities include:
  • Senior residential community
  • Activities director
  • Sexuality educator
  • Crisis/suicide prevention coordinators
  • Hospice volunteer coordinator
  • Peace Corps/AmeriCorps leaders
  • Adoption service worker
  • Child care teachers and directors

→ Youth and Community Development is a course of professional development for youth workers in afterschool and out-of-school time programs, and informal learning environments. Career possibilities include:
  • Afterschool program directors
  • Community service and youth activism coordinators
  • Juvenile Justice Court workers
  • Scout/youth organization executives
  • Museum, outdoor and adventure program leaders

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Family Studies Student Organization (FSSO) is a vibrant, active group that engages in the community and helps build real-world networking skills.

“MY PROFESSORS ENCOURAGED ME TO PUSH MY BIAS, AND PUT OUT A GREAT PRODUCT THAT EMPLOYERS WILL RECOGNIZE AS HIGH QUALITY.”

Nichole Landino, family science alumna