TO: Child & Family Development, Family Studies, and Youth & Community Development Majors

DATE: February 7, 2022

SUBJECT: Summer 2022 Professional Experience Courses (FCS 2020 and FCS 4290)

With continued commitment to the professional development of WMU Family Science students, the service of our community site placement partners, and the continuity and integrity of Family Science programming, the following Covid-19 course adaptations have been established for the Summer 2022 semester. Please review thoroughly prior to making scheduling decisions and note that modifications vary for each of the professional experience courses.

FCS 2020 Field Experience

Course Updates & Adaptations

- Site placements will not be required or approved for Summer 2022 enrollment in FCS 2020.

- Due to a reduction in placement opportunities related to impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, FCS 2020 has been adapted to allow students to meet course objectives through participation in a redesigned asynchronous online course. Students will fulfill all course objectives and their demonstration of academic and professional competencies through online course participation, activities, and assignments.

- Students have reported a high level of satisfaction with the adapted FCS 2020 course and appreciation of activities and assignments that provided extensive career research opportunities, exploration of career development tools and resources, and assessment of personal strengths in relation to career options and pathways.

Enrollment

- Students continue to have the option of taking 2 or 3 credit hours in the FCS 2020 course. (A minimum of 2 credit hours is required by the program.) Course work expectations are determined by the number of credit hours that a student is enrolled.

- If unsure of how many credit hours to register for, please reach out to CEHD academic advising cehd-advising@wmich.edu for guidance. Please also note that there are prerequisites for registration in FCS 2020 (as established by major and catalog year in Degree Works).

- Once registration is open, request for permission to register for FCS 2020 for Summer 2022 can be approved by a CEHD academic advisor cehd-advising@wmich.edu. You may also request approval for registration by sending an email with the following information to Family Science professional experience coordinator Melinda (Mindy) Holohan melinda.j.holohan@wmich.edu:

  1. Full name and WIN number
  2. The semester you would like to be approved for registration
  3. The number of credit hours that you would like to register for (2 or 3)
Once approved, the CEHD advisor or Family Science professional experience coordinator will complete a permit override in Banner allowing you to register in the course.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Beginning February 7, 2022, advisors and coordinators will continue to approve access to courses with restrictions (i.e., FCS 2020 and FCS 4290) but are not able to complete student registrations. Once course access has been requested and approved, a student will be informed that the course restrictions have been lifted allowing for the student to complete the registration process.

FCS 4290 Internships

Course Updates & Adaptations

The WMU Family Science program recognizes that many community partners, services, and agencies are anticipating COVID-19 related disruptions well into 2022 including reduced capacity for supporting internships and/or reduced opportunities for on-site fulfillment of internship hours. Following are considerations and adaptations that have been established in response to the feedback of students, site partners, and the oversight of the National Council on Family Relations.

- To meet professional development objectives and to maintain alignment for program certification by the National Council on Family Relations, internship students must arrange a professional learning opportunity and document internship work hours. Students may register for FCS 4290 prior to securing their internship arrangements but must submit an internship approval form prior to the start of the semester. Prior to the start of the semester, students must also have an identified site supervisor who will serve as the point person for the internship contract, the identification and fulfillment of duties and responsibilities, and who will complete mid-term and final student evaluations.

- In consideration of ongoing COVID-19 variables and conditions, internship arrangements/work hours may be expanded to include virtual professional experiences/meetings/trainings and home-based professional project work as identified in coordination with an internship site supervisor.

- While encouraged to pursue the full 360 internship work hours required by the course, Summer 2022 internship students must complete a minimum of 120 work hours of professional experience in coordination with an internship site.

- When unable to secure or complete internship work hours beyond the required 120 work hour minimum, students will complete supplemental course assignments (with work hour equivalencies) to fulfill the 360 hours of professional experience required by the course.

Enrollment

Summer internships and the corresponding six credits of FCS 4290 course take place over both Summer I and Summer II semesters. To register for FCS 4290, students must be at senior status (88 completed credit hours) and have completed prerequisites (as established by major and catalog year) prior to the start of Summer I 2022 semester.

In recognition of COVID-19 related delays, disruptions and uncertainties in the field, the Family Science program has made the decision to allow students to register for the FCS 4290 course prior to securing an internship opportunity or submitting internship approval forms. An Internship Site Approval Form must be submitted prior to the start of the semester.
Internship work hours and learning partnerships take place in conjunction with participation in an asynchronous, seminar-style internship course over a combination of both Summer I & II semesters. Students register for three FCS 4290 credits for Summer I and three FCS 4290 credits for Summer II. Exceptions to this requirement are rare and are determined on an individual basis.

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To receive approval to register for FCS 4290 Internship course/credits for Summer 2022 please complete the Request to Register Form.

Please contact Mindy Holohan melinda.j.holohan@wmich.edu with questions. You can schedule a phone or Webex meeting with Mindy via this link: https://appt.link/m-holohan

Moving Forward

The Family Science program is deeply committed to your professional learning and development. Family Science faculty are prepared to problem solve if unanticipated Covid-19 obstacles arise throughout the Summer 2022 semester. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to pursue programmatic solutions and adaptations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and encourage you to be in touch with your questions and updates!

In community,

Mindy Holohan, Undergraduate Field Experience and Internship Coordinator
Angel Gullon-Rivera, Family Science Program Coordinator