

# Elementary Education & Human Development and Family Science

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## Department Information

- **Department Location:**  
E. Morrow Lebedeff Hall
- **Department Phone:**  
701-231-8268
- **Department Web Site:**  
[www.ndsu.edu/hdfs/](http://www.ndsu.edu/hdfs/)
- **Credential Offered:**  
B.S.; B.A.
- **Official Program Curriculum:**  
[bulletin.ndsu.edu/undergraduate/program-curriculum/elementary-education-human-development-family-science/](http://bulletin.ndsu.edu/undergraduate/program-curriculum/elementary-education-human-development-family-science/)

The human development and family science/elementary education dual degree program is designed to provide additional knowledge in all aspects of child development to prepare elementary teachers to be advocates for young children and extend their knowledge about how children learn, what they learn, and the techniques that facilitate such learning.

## The Program

Through this curriculum, students are concurrently enrolled in the human development and family science (HDFS) major (child development option) through North Dakota State University and the elementary education major through Valley City State University (VCSU). The culmination of these requirements leads to a bachelor's degree from NDSU (human development and family science major/child development option) as well as a bachelor's degree from VCSU (elementary education major).

Under a cooperative agreement, students remain on the NDSU campus to complete all coursework for the dual degree. The courses specific to the elementary education major (VCSU) are offered on the NDSU campus by VCSU faculty. Students are certified to teach elementary education in public schools and may, with additional course work and an additional student teaching experience, be certified to teach kindergarten as well.

The HDFS degree complements and strengthens the elementary education curriculum with coursework in child development, family issues and cross-cultural diversity.

Children are very diverse in all aspects of their development—physical, cognitive, social and emotional. It is more accurate to view “normal” development as a range of possible outcomes rather than a single life course. Ultimately, these developmental factors have a strong influence on children's performance and behavior in school. A degree in HDFS will help future teachers understand development and its diversity, making them more effective teachers and helping them work with children from a wide variety of backgrounds.

## Selective Admission

Admission to the dual degree program consists of two separate university applications:

1. Application for admission to NDSU for the human development and family science/elementary education dual degree prior to beginning the program, and
2. Application for admission to VCSU and admission to the teacher education program, which occurs at the end of the sophomore year.

During or immediately following the introductory professional education course, students must meet additional requirements to be admitted into teacher education:

1. Sophomore standing or better with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75,
2. Satisfactory academic performance in English 110 and 120 (grades of C or higher) and successful completion of a speech screening test,
3. Achievement of minimum scores on the Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST), and
4. Qualification for teacher certification in the state of North Dakota upon VCSU program completion, as outlined in the latest issue of the Educator's Professional Certificate Regulation booklet published by the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction.

## Student Teaching

Student teaching is the culmination of the teaching program. Students have the opportunity to apply skills acquired in college courses under the supervision of an experienced educator.

## Certification

Upon completing this program, students are eligible for certification to teach grades 1 through 6. The program is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

## Financial Aid and Scholarships

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships at NDSU makes available grants, loans, scholarships and work-study employment. Scholarships also are available through the College of Human Development and Education. For more information visit: <https://www.ndsu.edu/onestop/finaid/scholarships/>

## The Facilities

Facilities for the dual degree program are housed in Evelyn Morrow Lebedeff Hall and the Family Life Center. Included in these buildings are classrooms, conference rooms and a child development center serving young children and their families.

## Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Students may enhance their involvement by participating in groups such as the HDFFS Club, the Elementary Education Club, the North Dakota Association for the Education of Young Children, the North Dakota Family and Consumer Sciences Association and the North Dakota Education Association.

## Community Setting

The Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area offers a conducive setting for study. Students have the opportunity to work in a number of community institutions serving children and families.

## Plan of Study

Please note this is a sample plan of study and not an official curriculum. Actual student schedules for each semester will vary depending on start year, education goals, applicable transfer credit, and course availability. Students are encouraged to work with their academic advisor on a regular basis to review degree progress and customize an individual plan of study.

Freshman					
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits		
HSE 189	1	ENGL 120	3		
PSYC 111	3	MATH 104	3		
HDFS 230	3	GEOL 105 or 106	3		
ENGL 110	4	HDFS 250	3		
COMM 110	3	HDFS 242	3		
Science & Tech Gen Ed (BIOL)	3				
	17		15		
Sophomore					
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits	Summer	Credits
HDFS 275	3	HDFS 330	3	EDUC 210: Creative Activities	2
Science: see curr guide (CHEM/PHYS/STEM ED 160)	3	HDFS 353	3		
Co-Req Science & Tech Gen Ed Lab Course	1	HDFS elective	3		
CSCI 114 or MIS 116	3	EDUC 250: Introduction to Education	3		
HIST 103 or 104	3	MATH 277: Math for Elem 1	3		
Humanities & Fine Arts Gen Ed	3	EDUC 300: Education Technology	2		
	16		17		2
Junior					
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits		
HDFS 300-400 level elective	3	HSE 320	1		

HDFS 300-400 level elective	3	EDUC 320: Social Studies Methods	3
EDUC 240: Exceptional Students	3	EDUC 321: Foundation of Reading	3
EDUC 283: Understanding Cult. Diversity	3	EDUC 322: Language Arts Methods	3
EDUC 352: Culturally Diverse Practicum	1	EDUC 330: Children's Literature	3
MATH 278: Math for Elem 2	3	EDUC 450: Assessment & Education Issues	2
GEOG 111	2		
	18		15

<b>Senior</b>			
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Credits</b>
ENGL 320, 325, 358, or 459	3	HDFS 496*	1
EDUC 315: Math Methods	3	EDUC 400: Educational Psychology	2
EDUC 323: Reading Methods	3	EDUC 490: Student Teaching	10
EDUC 350: Elementary Education Practicum	2	EDUC 491: Seminar (Senior Portfolio)	1
EDUC 355: Science Methods	3		
	14		14

Total Credits: 128

\* Students should NOT enroll themselves in HDFS 496 via Campus Connection. The NDSU Registration and Records office automatically enrolls students in the course during the student's teaching semester.