

# Human Development and Family Science

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## Department Information

- **Department Head:**  
Joel Hektner, Ph.D.
- **Department Location:**  
Evelyn Morrow Lebedeff Hall
- **Department Phone:**  
(701) 231-8268
- **Department Web Site:**  
[www.ndsu.edu/hdfs/academics/masters\\_degree/](http://www.ndsu.edu/hdfs/academics/masters_degree/) ([http://www.ndsu.edu/hdfs/academics/masters\\_degree/](http://www.ndsu.edu/hdfs/academics/masters_degree/))
- **Application Deadline:**  
One month prior to the beginning of each term. Applications accepted for fall, spring, and summer.
- **Credential Offered:**  
M.S., Certificate
- **English Proficiency Requirements:**  
TOEFL iBT 100 (subscores of at least 24 for speaking and 21 for writing); IELTS 7 ; Duolingo 125

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## Program Description

Programs of study leading to a Graduate Certificate or the Master of Science degree are offered in three options: Family Financial Planning, Youth Development, and Gerontology. All of these options are available via a collaborative, inter-institutional program offered through online distance education. Each program requires a capstone practicum or case study experience to complete the M.S. degree. Students can complete the M.S. programs in two to three years and the certificate programs in one calendar year.

The **Family Financial Planning (FFP)** M.S. option is a 36-credit program with a specific curriculum approved by the Certified Financial Planner (CFP) Board of Standards. Graduate certificates (18 credits) are available in Financial Planning and in Financial Counseling.

The **Gerontology** M.S. option requires 30 credits, and the Graduate Certificate requires 12 credits. An advanced degree in the field of Gerontology can benefit the professional in social work, nursing, counseling, recreation, public policy, long-term care administration, medicine, architecture, interior design, psychology, adult education, and rehabilitation therapy.

The **Youth Development** M.S. option requires 36 credits. Graduate Certificates (12 credits) are available in Youth Development and in Youth Program Management and Evaluation. Youth development is an emerging professional field. It has a positive orientation, meaning its focus is on promoting the positive development of youth, and it is an applied field, with professionals who put developmental research and theory into practice in structuring and implementing programs and services for adolescents.

In addition to the Graduate School's required application requirements, submit the statement of purpose indicating reasons for pursuing graduate study, specifying your special interests within your chosen discipline and including your background preparation in that area. Mention any relevant skills or experience you have acquired. In addition, be sure to address the following, in 500 words or less:

1. How your interest in this field developed.
2. Why you chose our program at NDSU.
3. The experiences you have had (e.g. informal, academic, employment, volunteer) that you see as related to this graduate program or your professional goals.
4. What your professional goals are and how this graduate program will help you accomplish your professional goals.

## Family Financial Planning

Code	Title	Credits
HDFS 677	Financial Counseling	3
HDFS 740	Theories & Research in Family Financial Planning I	3
HDFS 762	Retirement Planning, Employee Benefits and the Family	3
HDFS 763	Personal Income Taxation	3
HDFS 765	Insurance Planning for Families	3
HDFS 766	Estate Planning for Families	3
HDFS 769	Financial Planning Case Studies	3
HDFS 770	Fundamentals of Financial Planning	3

HDFS 771	Investing for the Family's Future	3
Electives		9
HDFS 741	Theories & Research in Family Financial Planning II	
HDFS 767	Professional Practices in Family Financial Planning	
HDFS 768	Housing/Real Estate	
HDFS 772	Military Personal Financial Readiness	
HDFS 794	Practicum/Internship	
HDFS 797	Master's Paper	
HDFS 798	Master's Thesis	
Other elective approved by advisor		
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>36</b>

## Gerontology

Code	Title	Credits
HDFS 723	Foundations in Integrative Aging Studies	3
HDFS 721	Contemporary Perspectives on Adult Development and Aging	3
<b>3 credits from Block 2:</b>		<b>3</b>
HNES 652	Physical Health, Wellness, Nutrition and Active Aging	
HDFS 725	Socioemotional and Cognitive Well-being throughout Adulthood	
HDFS 790	Graduate Seminar (Focused on the Aging Individual)	
<b>3 credits from Block 3:</b>		<b>3</b>
HDFS 726	Family Relationships and Aging	
ADHM 705	Interdisciplinary Perspectives in Environments for Aging	
HDFS 790	Graduate Seminar (Focused on Aging in Context)	
<b>3 credits from Block 4:</b>		<b>3</b>
HDFS 760	Aging Policy and Advocacy	
HDFS 761	Implementation of Community Programs for Older Adults	
HDFS 722	Applied Research Methods and Evaluation of Aging Programs	
HDFS 790	Graduate Seminar (Focused on Translational Practice)	
HDFS 794	Practicum/Internship	3
12 credits of electives selected from any of the above courses		12
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>30</b>

## Youth Development

Code	Title	Credits
HDFS 710	Foundations of Youth Development	3
HDFS 711	Youth Development	3
HDFS 712	Positive Youth Development in Community Settings	3
HDFS 713	Adolescents and Their Families	3
HDFS 716	Youth Professionals as Consumers of Research	3
HDFS 717	Design and Evaluation of Youth Programs	3
HDFS 718	Youth Development Personnel and Program Management	3
HDFS 719	Youth Policy	3
HDFS 730	Youth-Adult Relationships	3
HDFS 794	Practicum/Internship	3
Electives (select 2 courses)		6
HDFS 714	Contemporary Youth Issues (*)	
HDFS 715	Youth Culture	
HDFS 790	Graduate Seminar (*)	

HDFS 794 Practicum/Internship (Additional hours)

<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>36</b>
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\*Upon approval of topic by adviser. Can be taken more than once with different topics.

## Family Financial Planning

Select one of the options: Financial Planning or Financial Counseling

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Financial Planning Option</b>		
HDFS 762	Retirement Planning, Employee Benefits and the Family	3
HDFS 763	Personal Income Taxation	3
HDFS 765	Insurance Planning for Families	3
HDFS 766	Estate Planning for Families	3
HDFS 769	Financial Planning Case Studies	3
HDFS 771	Investing for the Family's Future	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>18</b>

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Financial Counseling Option</b>		
HDFS 677	Financial Counseling	3
HDFS 740	Theories & Research in Family Financial Planning I	3
HDFS 768	Housing/Real Estate	3
HDFS 770	Fundamentals of Financial Planning	3
Select 6 credits of the following:		6
HDFS 741	Theories & Research in Family Financial Planning II	
HDFS 762	Retirement Planning, Employee Benefits and the Family	
HDFS 763	Personal Income Taxation	
HDFS 765	Insurance Planning for Families	
HDFS 766	Estate Planning for Families	
HDFS 771	Investing for the Family's Future	
HDFS 772	Military Personal Financial Readiness	
HDFS 794	Practicum/Internship	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>18</b>

## Gerontology

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
HDFS 721	Contemporary Perspectives on Adult Development and Aging	3
HDFS 723	Foundations in Integrative Aging Studies	3
Elective Courses- Select 2		6
HNES 652	Physical Health, Wellness, Nutrition and Active Aging	
ADHM 705	Interdisciplinary Perspectives in Environments for Aging	
HDFS 722	Applied Research Methods and Evaluation of Aging Programs	
HDFS 725	Socioemotional and Cognitive Well-being throughout Adulthood	
HDFS 726	Family Relationships and Aging	
HDFS 760	Aging Policy and Advocacy	
HDFS 761	Implementation of Community Programs for Older Adults	
HDFS 790	Graduate Seminar (*)	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>12</b>

## Youth Development

Code	Title	Credits
HDFS 710	Foundations of Youth Development	3
HDFS 711	Youth Development	3
Select 2 courses from the following:		6
HDFS 712	Positive Youth Development in Community Settings	
HDFS 713	Adolescents and Their Families	
HDFS 714	Contemporary Youth Issues <sup>1</sup>	
HDFS 715	Youth Culture	
HDFS 719	Youth Policy	
HDFS 730	Youth-Adult Relationships	
HDFS 790	Graduate Seminar <sup>1</sup>	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>12</b>

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With approval of topic by advisor.

## Youth Program Management and Evaluation

Code	Title	Credits
HDFS 710	Foundations of Youth Development	3
HDFS 717	Design and Evaluation of Youth Programs	3
HDFS 718	Youth Development Personnel and Program Management	3
Select one course from the following:		3
HDFS 712	Positive Youth Development in Community Settings	
HDFS 714	Contemporary Youth Issues <sup>1</sup>	
HDFS 719	Youth Policy	
HDFS 790	Graduate Seminar <sup>1</sup>	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>12</b>

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With approval of topic by advisor.

### James Deal, Ph.D.

University of Georgia, 1987

Research Interests: Identity Development in Emerging Adults, Particularly in the Areas of Religion and the Transition to College; First Generation and/or Low Income Students and Issues Related to Financial Support

### Margaret Fitzgerald, Ph.D.

Iowa State University, 1997

Research Interests: Family Owned Businesses—copreneurial couples, women and minority-owned businesses, the interface between the business, family and community, and managerial adjustment strategies.

### Heather Fuller, Ph.D.

University of Michigan, 2009

Research Interests: Social Relationships and Well-Being Across the Lifespan (e.g. Intergenerational Relationships); Successful Aging and Health Promotion; Aging in Rural and Cross-Cultural Contexts; Aging Families and Caregiving; Survey Research and Program Evaluation

### Joel Hektner, Ph.D.

University of Chicago, 1996

Research Interests: Design and Effectiveness of Programs to Prevent Adjustment Problems and Promote Well-Being in Children and Adolescents; Peer Affiliation Patterns and Peer Influences on Children's Behaviors; Family and School Conditions that Facilitate Optimal Experiences (Flow) and Optimal Development; the Experience Sampling Method

### Leanna McWood, Ph.D.

Auburn University, 2020

Research Interests: Extracurricular Involvement; Social Relationships; Contextual Influences; Sleep; Adolescent Development

**Natira Mullet, Ph.D.**

Texas Tech University, 2020

Research Interests: Intergenerational, cultural and familial protective factors to reduce interpersonal trauma and resulting substance use and mental health outcomes among marginalized communities.

**Melissa O'Connor, Ph.D.**

University of South Florida, 2010

Research Interests: Examining Age-Related Differences and Changes in Cognitive and Functional Abilities, Such as Driving, Among Healthy Adults and Clinical Populations; Quantitative Methods and Psychometrics; Interventions for Improving Cognition, Health, and Everyday Functioning; and Attitudes Toward Dementia

**Rachelle Vettern, Ph.D.**

North Dakota State University, 2006

Research Interests: Leadership and Volunteer Development