

# 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

### **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