Child and Family Studies

The Child and Family Studies program equips emerging professionals to improve individual and family well-being across the lifespan through the study of:

- Human development from conception through late adulthood, with a focus on physical, cognitive, emotional, social, and spiritual domains.
- Interpersonal relationship dynamics, and improving family life through educational and preventive practices.

**CORE COURSES**

- CFS 1315 Individual and Family Relationship Development
- CFS 2355 Child Development
- CFS 2357 Adult Development
- CFS 3304 Introduction to Research
- CFS 3350 Individual and Family Financial Management
- CFS 3354 Family Life Education & Ethics
- CFS 3356 Theories of Family Development
- CFS 4358 Planning and Administration of Non-Profits
- CFS 4359 Parenting Theory and Approaches
- CFS 4191 Professional Practices in Child and Family Studies
- CFS 4390 Practicum in Child and Family Studies

**PIPER CENTER FOR FAMILY STUDIES AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

Beyond the classroom, students in the Child and Family Studies program engage in interactive learning experiences through the Piper Center. The Piper Center is a laboratory environment and NAEYC accredited child development center where students receive hands-on training in the field.

From this academic foundation, Child and Family Studies program students specialize in one of four concentrations:

- Child Development
- Child Life Specialist
- Pre-Occupational Therapy
- Family Life Education
The Child Development concentration in Child and Family Studies is designed to prepare students with the foundational understanding of children's development in order to provide developmentally-appropriate support in clinical settings.

**CONCENTRATION-SPECIFIC COURSES**

**Required:**
- CFS 3324  Children and Families with Special Needs
- CFS 3358  Infant and Toddler Development
- CFS 3368  Theories and Principles of Play
- CFS 4363  Adolescent Development

**Electives:**
- EDP 3324  Learning and Development
- LS 3302   Children's Literature
- LS 4320   Youth Literature
- SOC 3360  Juvenile Delinquency
- PUBH 3325 Infant and Maternal Health
- PUBH 4321 Human Sexuality

**Field-Based Experience** | Students in the Child Development concentration will complete 60 hours of observation and engagement with well-children at the Piper Center for Family Studies and Child Development, and 150-hours in a community-based setting through the practicum.

Students in the Child Development concentration can select between completing a minor or the coursework to become a Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) through the National Council on Family Relations. Minor options include American Sign Language, Educational Psychology, Leadership Studies, Legal Reasoning and Analysis, Medical Humanities, Nutrition Sciences, Poverty Studies and Social Justice, Religion, and Women's and Gender Studies. For more information about certification as a Family Life Educator, see the *Baylor CFLE handout.*
Child Development

STEP ONE | Assess Your Interests

- See a **career advisor** in the Baylor Career Center. They have many resources and assessments that can help you identify your interests and strengths.

- Take the **introductory CFS classes**: CFS 1315 Development of Individual and Family Relationships, CFS 2355 Child Development, and CFS 2357 Adult Development.

- Conduct an **informational interview** with a professional in a field/position to see what skills and strengths are needed.

STEP TWO | Make Connections

- Attend relevant **student organization meetings** to meet faculty, students, and professionals from related areas!

- Attend a **conference or workshop** to make professional connections and learn the latest information in the field, such as the annual Texas Association for the Education of Young Children conference (http://www.texasaeyc.org).

- Take **discipline-specific courses** to build knowledge and invaluable skill, such as 3358 Infant & Toddler Development, 3368 Theories and Principles of Play, and 4363 Adolescent Development.

STEP THREE | Build Skills

- **Volunteer** at a camp, non-profit, church, or school, such as Piper, Talitha Koum, CareNet, and the Advocacy Center. Consider applying for a work-study position at the Piper Child Development Center.

- **Develop leadership skills** by taking on volunteer leadership positions through student organizations, churches or non-profits, and research opportunities with CFS professors.

- Take the **required pre-requisite courses** for the practicum class, including 2355 Child Development, 3356 Theories of Family Development, 4359 Parenting Theory and Approaches, & 4191 Professional Practices. Please note that CFS 4191 is ONLY offered in the fall semester.

STEP FOUR | Apply For A Practicum

- **Research practicum opportunities** through the 4191 course. See the practicum coordinator for pre-approved placements, including research-based practicum opportunities.

- Visit the Baylor Career Center to **polish up your resume** and try your hand at a mock interview!

- **Gather important documents** such as letters of recommendation from supervisors, professors, and/or other career professionals, and verification of volunteer hours (when needed).