

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



CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES

Family Life Education

The Family Life Education concentration in Child and Family Studies is designed to provide students with contextual understanding of family and interpersonal relationships in order to prepare them in strengths-based, preventive approaches with families.

CONCENTRATION-SPECIFIC COURSES

Required:

- CFS 4356 Families in the Global Perspective
- CFS 4357 Child and Family Policy and Advocacy
- CFS 4364 Child and Family Ministry
- CFS 4367 Family Transitions, Stress, and Resilience
- CSS 4313 Communication and the Family
- PUBH 3320 Stress Management
- PUBH 4321 Human Sexuality

Electives:

- CSS 4311 Conflict and Communication
- PUBH 4327 Dying and Death Education
- REL 3382 Cross-Cultural Ministry

Field-Based Experience | Students in the Family Life Education concentration will complete over 165-hours in community-based settings through development, practice-based, and practicum courses in the Child and Family Studies program.

Students in the Family Life Education concentration complete all required coursework to become a Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) through the National Council on Family Relations. For more information about certification as a Family Life Educator, see the *Baylor CFLE* handout.

Family Life Education concentration students can also complete a minor within the degree program. Minor options include American Sign Language, Leadership Studies, Legal Reasoning and Analysis, Poverty Studies and Social Justice, Religion, and Women's and Gender Studies.

Family Life Education

Professional Development

STEP ONE | Assess Your Interests

- o See a **career advisor** in the Baylor Career Center. They have many resources and assessments that can help you identify your interests and strengths.
- o Take the **introductory CFS classes**: CFS 1315 Development of Individual and Family Relationships, CFS 2355 Child Development, and CFS 2357 Adult Development.
- o Conduct an **informational interview** with a professional in a field/position to see what skills and strengths are needed.

STEP TWO | Make Connections

- o Attend **relevant student organization meetings** to meet faculty, students, and professionals from related areas!
- o Attend a **conference or workshop** to make professional connections and learn the latest information in the field, such as the annual Texas Council on Family Relations annual conference (<http://tx.ncfr.org>).
- o Take **discipline-specific courses** to build knowledge and invaluable skill, such as 3354 Family Life Education and Ethics, 4356 The Family: A Global Perspective, and 4367 Family Policy and Advocacy.

STEP THREE | Build Skills

- o **Volunteer** at a camp, non-profit, church, or school, such as the Advocacy Center, Family Abuse Center, HOPES Program, CareNet, and more!
- o **Develop leadership skills** by taking on volunteer leadership positions through student organizations, churches or non-profits, and research opportunities with CFS professors.
- o 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

- o **Research practicum opportunities** through the 4191 course. See the practicum coordinator for pre-approved placements, including research-based practicum opportunities.
- o Visit the Baylor Career Center to **polish up your resume** and try your hand at a mock interview!
- o **Gather important documents** such as letters of recommendation from supervisors, professors, and/or other career professionals, and verification of volunteer hours (when needed).