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 Pre-Occupational Therapy concentration in Child and Family Studies is designed to prepare students with a foundational understanding of development and family dynamics, while meeting academic prerequisites for graduate-level occupational therapy programs*.

**CONCENTRATION-SPECIFIC COURSES**

- CFS 3324  Children and Families with Special Needs
- CFS 4367  Family Transitions, Stress, and Resilience
- CFS 3358  Infant and Toddler Development**
- CFS 3368  Theories and Principles of Play**
- CFS 4363  Adolescent Development**
- BIO 2401  Anatomy and Physiology I
- BIO 2402  Anatomy and Physiology II
- CLA 3381  Medical Terminology
- PSY 3341  Survey of Human Development
- PSY 3321  Abnormal Psychology
- HP 2306/7  Anatomical Kinesiology OR Biomechanics
- PHY 1405/8  Physics

**Field-Based Experience** | Students in the Pre-OT concentration will complete 50-60 hours of observation and engagement with children at the Piper Center for Family Studies and Child Development, and 150-hours in a community-based setting through the practicum.

* Pre-requisite requirements are unique to each Occupational Therapy program. Pre-OT concentration students in this concentration are encouraged to identify the specific pre-requisites required for their intended post-graduate OT school programs. Students can petition for changes to required science courses to align with documented OT school program requirements.

**Students in the Pre-OT concentration will select 2 of the 3 development courses.
Pre-Occupational Therapy

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 Texas Child Life 101 Workshop (https://www.taclp.org/child_life_101).
- Take discipline-specific courses to build knowledge, such as CFS 3324 Children and Families with Special Needs, CFS 4367 Family Transitions, Stress, and Resilience, and CLA 3381 Medical Terminology.

STEP THREE | Build Skills

- Volunteer at a camp, non-profit, church, or school, such as Klara's Center Early Childhood Intervention (ECI), Elite Therapy Center, Hope and Believe, Little Land Play Gym and Talitha Koum.
- 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 Dr. Mac for pre-approved placements, including research and evaluation 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).