

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

A black and white photograph of a woman with long, wavy hair and a young girl with curly hair. They are both smiling and looking at a wooden abacus. The woman is standing behind the girl, and they are both looking at the abacus. The abacus has several rows of beads. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a window or a doorway.

CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES

Pre-Occupational Therapy

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

- 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 Texas Child Life 101 Workshop (https://www.taclp.org/child_life_101).
- o 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

- o **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.
- 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 Dr. Mac for pre-approved placements, including research and evaluation 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).