

Areas of Specialization (12 credits required)

The following specializations provide a concentrated study in an area of human development.

1) Lifespan foci

Child and/or adolescent development: A focus on historical, sociocultural, and developmental issues in infancy, childhood, and adolescence, with an emphasis on the bi-directional influence of children and their environments, and the design of interventions that support optimal development.

Adult development and/or gerontology: A focus on historical, sociocultural, and developmental issues in adulthood and later life, with an emphasis on normative transitions, critical turning points, clinical assessment, and developmentally appropriate interventions.

2) Public policy/administration: A focus on policies and programs designed to support families, with an emphasis on social and political forces that influence public policies, their administration, and evaluation. An examination of the role of leaders in guiding diverse teams of professionals toward realizing family and community goals.

3) Family studies: A focus on theory and research on family systems and their changing dynamics, with an emphasis on the diversity of families and factors that support optimal family functioning.

4) Family financial education and counseling: A focus on principles of family financial behavior, emphasizing research and theory about factors that influence financial well-being across the life span, and practices and policies that influence consumers' financial decision-making.