

Professional Portfolio
Master's of Science in Human Development and Family Studies
Examples of Appropriate Evidence

The program is designed to foster learning outcomes in 6 categories of Competencies and 5 categories of Processes. The Professional Portfolio will provide documentation and reflection about each of these Learning Outcomes.

Competencies (6 categories) –Include specific evidence (documentation) for each category or refer to evidence that is already included in the portfolio.

I) Knowledge Base and Applications – must document for each of the following 4 categories:

1) Articulate broad knowledge of principles and theories of human development and family studies and synthesize and apply this knowledge in your professional or academic career;

Examples: Papers or exams from relevant graduate courses (e.g., HDF 500; 530/535);

2) Critical understanding of core developmental theories and application

Examples: Relevant papers/exams from developmental seminar (e.g., HDF 511-514) and specialization courses;

3) Policy and program analysis

Examples: Papers/exams/work from relevant classes (e.g., HDF 533); policy/legislative internship papers; artifacts from policy or legislative events in which you have participated; masters comprehensive exam

4) Contribution of ethnicity, gender, culture, and social class to human adaptation

Examples: Relevant papers or other work from coursework (e.g., HDF 535, 500, developmental or specialization courses); handouts from workshops; master's comprehensive exam

II) Research – must document for each of the following 2 categories:

5) Appropriate use of research methodologies

Examples: Materials (homework, proposals, papers) from relevant classes (e.g., HDF 570; HDF 533, STA 409 or other stats class); Methods section of thesis; research section of comprehensive exam; poster or paper presentations

6) Grant proposal development

Examples: Assignments from relevant courses (e.g., HDF 580; specialization courses); relevant materials from grad assistantships or research internships; application materials for graduate funds or other funding sources;

Processes (5 categories) - Whenever possible, include specific evidence or refer to evidence already included. When no evidence is available, include a detailed, written description of your role.

I) Communication

1) Communicate effectively in oral and written modalities - must document for oral and written competences

Examples: Feedback from presentations you've made or classes you've taught; comments from teachers or peers on your written work; acceptance to present poster or paper at a conference; any publications

II) Professional Development - must document for the following 4 categories:

2) Collaboration (with colleagues, networking, working in teams)

Examples: Group projects, internships, research, resident or graduate assistantships; jointly authored papers or presentations; activities related to your professional identity such as professional organizations you belong to; roles you play for these organizations; collaborations you have formed with HDF colleagues or other professionals; attendance at conferences;

3) Engage in planning, problem-solving and task completion relative to one's professional development;

Examples for planning/completion: Relationship of master's program to future profession; timely completion of program of study (with few changes);

Examples of problem-solving: Methods used to gain these competencies; challenges overcome in conducting masters thesis; other descriptions of individual or group problem-solving either from class, URI-related activities, or professional organizations

4) Incorporate multicultural and diverse perspectives into your personal and professional career.

Examples: Projects/work with individuals from outside your discipline; interactions/work with individuals from different backgrounds (could include data collection for your thesis or research internships, or responsibilities from resident assistantships);

5) Exercise leadership in your profession

Examples: Leadership position in any university or professional organization while in school; description of guidance/mentoring to junior colleagues/students in program (e.g., HDF 580/1); leadership role you have taken in internships or group projects

Note: BE SELECTIVE. You don't need to include every paper that addresses a specific area, just include your BEST example. For many first-year students, competencies in research methodologies; oral communication; grant proposal development; and collaborating/networking may not be well-developed until the second year.