

Child Development and Family Studies, B.S.

Degree Offered

- Bachelor of Science

Nature of the Program

The undergraduate program in Child Development and Family Studies (CDFS) offers an online Bachelor of Science degree option.

Child Development and Family Studies (CDFS) program focuses on development from birth through age eight, focusing on typical and atypical development, with an emphasis on preparing students to work with young children and families. Students will also complete field experiences and internships in settings that serve children and families. The Bachelor of Science in CDFS is best suited for students interested in working with young children and their families, including careers as a family/parent educator, Head Start teacher, nursery school teacher, and family support worker.

Admissions for 2025-2026

INCOMING FRESHMEN

- Students must meet university admission requirements to be directly admitted to the major

INTERNAL AND OUTSIDE WVU TRANSFER

- 2.0 cumulative university GPA

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL STUDENTS

- Earn a C- or higher in all CDFS, ECSE, or SPED coursework
- Comply with field and major professional and dispositional standards

Major Code: 5506

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	University Requirements	72-46
	Child Development and Family Studies Major Requirements	48-73
	Total Hours	120

University Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	General Education Foundations (GEF) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 (31-37 Credits)	
	Outstanding GEF Requirements 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8	25
CDFS 191	First-Year Seminar	1
	General Electives	49-23
	Total Hours	75-49

Child Development and Family Studies Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	A minimum grade of C- is required in all Child Development and Family Studies Major Coursework.	
CDFS 110	Families Across the Life Span (GEF 4)	3
CDFS 112	Introduction to Family Processes and Dynamics (GEF 8)	3
CDFS 210	Introduction to Parenting	3
CDFS 212	Development in Early and Middle Childhood	3
CDFS 250	Research Methods (fulfills Writing and Communication Skills requirement)	3
CDFS 413	Stress in Families	3
SPED 404	Special Education in Contemporary Society (GEF 8)	3

AREA OF EMPHASIS**24-49**

Total Hours

45-70

Note: Students must earn grades of C- or better in all courses with the CDFS course designator required in the major and associated areas of emphasis. If a student's overall GPA drops below 2.5, they may be subject to academic probation and potentially dismissal from the program.

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CDFS 191 is not required for students with transfer work (of at least 29 hours) or students who have previously taken an approved WVU orientation course.

SUGGESTED PLAN OF STUDY**First Year**

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ENGL 101 (GEF 1)		3 ENGL 102 (GEF 1)	3
MATH 121 (GEF 3)		3 CDFS 110 (GEF 4)	3
CDFS 191		1 CDFS 112	3
GEF 5		3 GEF 6	3
GEF 8		3 GEF 7	3
Elective		3	
		16	15

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
CDFS 210		3 CDFS 250	3
CDFS 212		3 GEF 8	3
GEF 2		4 AOE Courses	9
GEF 8		3	
Elective		3	
		16	15

Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
AOE Courses		9 AOE Courses	9
Electives		6 Electives	7
		15	16

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
CDFS 413		3 SPED 404	3
AOE Courses		9 AOE Courses	6
Elective		3 CDFS 491 or 491A	3-6
		15	12

Total credit hours: 120

Area of Emphasis

- Child Development

CHILD DEVELOPMENT AREA OF EMPHASIS

Code	Title	Hours
Child Development Area of Emphasis		
A minimum GPA of 2.5 is required in all emphasis courses		
CHILD DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS		
CDFS 211	Infant Development	3
CDFS 316	Child Development Practicum	3
CDFS 431	Infant Toddler Language and Literacy	3
CDFS 432	Early Socio-Emotional Development	3

CDFS 491	Professional Field Experience	6
CDFS 491A	Professional Field Experience	3
ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS		
C&I 410	Early Childhood Education 1	3
C&I 411	Early Childhood Education 2	3
HLSC 172	First Aid and Emergency Care	2
RDNG 423	Literacy and the Young Child	3
ECSE 311	Developmental Assessment for Young Children with Special Needs	3
or ECSE 312	Differentiated Instruction for Young Children with Special Needs	
or ECSE 317	Technology for Young Children with/without Special Needs	
KINDERSKILLS		
CDFS 430	Best Practices in Pre-K Movement	3
CLASSROOM CREATIVENESS		
Choose one of the following courses:		2
ART 103	Materials and Procedures	
C&I 414	Creative Experiences in Early Childhood	
MUSC 182	Music in the Elementary School	
THE BUSINESS OF CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION		
Choose two of the following courses:		6
BCOR 350	Principles of Marketing	
BCOR 370	Principles of Management	
CDFS 420	Leadership in Early Childhood	
CDFS 421	Child Care Center Administration	
CDFS 422	The Business of Child Care Management and Financial Strategies	
CDFS 423	External Funding: Early Childhood Programs	
Total Hours		46

Major Learning Outcomes

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS) IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES

The BS degree in Child Development and Family Studies offers two curriculum options: Birth through 5/Pre-Kindergarten and Family and Youth Studies.

Students in the Birth through 5/Pre-Kindergarten option of Child Development and Family Studies will acquire:

- Knowledge of the social, emotional, intellectual, and physical development of young children in the family and preschool contexts.
- Skills in implementing appropriate curricula as well as developmental and performance assessments.
- Ability to construct positive and enriched early childhood environments where the young have the opportunity to develop skills for lifelong learning.
- Knowledge of current best practices that prepare young children to be competent, independent learners.
- Ability to reflect on one's knowledge and skills of teaching and interacting with young children.
- Knowledge of how young children learn in order to prepare educational activities in inclusive environments.
- Extensive field experiences with various ages of young children--infants, toddlers and preschoolers and young school age.

Students in the family and youth option of Child Development and Family Studies will acquire:

- Knowledge in human growth and development, adolescent development, human sexuality, family issues and interaction, youth concerns and issues, and related topics.
- Understanding of the various social contextual influences on adolescent development and family functioning and the interactive relationships between families and other societal institutions such as schools.
- Various strategies for working with adolescents and families in various social service and community-based context.
- Hands-on experience working with children, adolescents, and/or families at community agencies.
- Awareness of the multiple career paths for students in this area of study along with options and opportunities for graduate studies.