

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 in-person as well as a fully 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 children, youth and their 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 children, youth and their families, including careers as a family/parent educator, developmental specialist, community services, and family support worker.

Admissions for 2027-2028

INCOMING FRESHMEN

- All First-Time Freshmen who meet the University requirements are directly admitted into the Child Development and Family Studies program

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL TRANSFER STUDENTS

- At least a 2.0 cumulative university GPA is required for admission to the program

Major Code: 5505 (in-person)

Major Code: 5506 (online)

General Education Foundations

Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. (<http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef/>)

NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEF requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GEFs you will need to select.

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Foundations		
F1 - Composition & Rhetoric		3-6
ENGL 101 & ENGL 102 or ENGL 103	Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research Accelerated Academic Writing	
F2A/F2B - Science & Technology		4-6
F3 - Math & Quantitative Reasoning		3-4
F4 - Society & Connections		3
F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past		3
F6 - The Arts & Creativity		3
F7 - Global Studies & Diversity		3
F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree)		9
Total Hours		31-37

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	University Requirements	69
	Child Development and Family Studies Major Requirements	51
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, and 7		24
CAHS 191	First-Year Seminar	2
General Electives		43
Total Hours		69

Professional and Career Development Sequence

Code	Title	Hours
Sequence *		
CAHS 191	First-Year Seminar	
CAHS 300	Career Exploration in Applied Human Sciences	
CAHS 489	Capstone Experience in AHS	

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	3
CDFS 210	Introduction to Parenting	3
CDFS 213	Foundations of Human Development: Infancy Through Childhood	3
CDFS 250	Research Methods	3
CAHS 300	Career Exploration in Applied Human Sciences	3
CDFS 311	Developmental Assessment for Young Children with Special Needs	3
or CDFS 315	Home-Based Programs for Early Intervention	
CDFS 413	Stress in Families	3
or CDFS 415	Family Interaction and Communication	
CDFS 416	Trauma, Resiliency, and Children	3
CDFS 417	Families and Health	3
CAHS 489	Capstone Experience in AHS	3
Upper Level Developmental Specialization		3
Select one of the following:		
CDFS 318	Development in Context: Culture, Society, and Child Development	
CDFS 410	The Science of Positive Youth Development	
CDFS 412	Adolescent Development	
CDFS 432	Early Socio-Emotional Development	
Required Minor **		15
Total Hours		51

* CAHS 191 is accounted for in the University Requirements, CAHS 300 and CAHS 489 as part of the Major Requirements.

** Students declaring a second major are not required to fulfill the minor requirement.

SUGGESTED PLAN OF STUDY

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ENGL 101 (GEF 1)		3 ENGL 102 (GEF 1)	3
CDFS 110 (GEF 4)		3 CDFS 210	3
CDFS 112		3 CDFS 213	3
CAHS 191		2 GEF 2	3
GEF 3		3 GEF 5	3

		General Elective		1
		14		16
Second Year				
Fall	Hours		Spring	Hours
CDFS 315 or 311			3 CDFS 250	3
GEF 2			3 CAHS 300	3
GEF 6			3 GEF 7	3
General Elective			3 General Elective	3
General Elective			3 General Elective	3
		15		15
Third Year				
Fall	Hours		Spring	Hours
Upper Level Developmental Specialization Course			3 CDFS 413 or 415	3
General Electives			12 CDFS 416	3
			General Electives	9
		15		15
Fourth Year				
Fall	Hours		Spring	Hours
CDFS 417			3 CAHS 489	3
General Electives or Minor			12 General Electives or Minor	12
		15		15

Total credit hours: 120

Major Learning Outcomes

CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES

- Describe and apply knowledge in human growth and development, family issues and interaction, youth concerns and issues, cultural and societal contexts, and related topics.
- Explain, interpret, and appraise the various social contextual influences on development and family functioning and the interactive relationships between families and other societal institutions.
- Identify, describe, design, and appraise strategies for working with children, adolescents, and families in various social service and community-based context.