The Department of Human Development and Family Studies at the University of New Hampshire offers a program of study leading to a master of science degree in Human Development and Family Studies with a core area of study in Adolescent Development. This core area of study is designed to develop general competence in understanding and applying theory and research regarding adolescent development with particular emphasis on the influences of families and communities. This core area of study is grounded in an ecological approach that focuses on supporting the health and well being of all adolescents with special attention to using a developmental perspective to develop programs, policies, and other interventions that address contemporary risk and protective factors. Those accepted into the program for this area of study will be expected to participate in a research project involving adolescents and also to complete an internship with a program working with, or for, adolescents.

Admission Requirements

Students in good academic standing with undergraduate degrees in any field and a specific interest in working with adolescents are encouraged to apply. If a student’s undergraduate program does not include an introductory statistics course or the equivalent, successful completion of such a course is required before beginning graduate work. Additional admissions information and personal interviews may be required of applicants.

Core area applications are due May 15 for fall admission and December 1 for spring admission, but review of applications for fall admission will begin on January 15, and only applications for full-time enrollment received by that date are eligible for department financial aid.

M.S. Degree Requirements

Requirements include: 1) completion of the 12-credit core curriculum: HDFS 991 Professional Issues for Family Specialists; HDFS 993 Theoretical Approaches to Family Studies; HDFS 994 Research Seminar; 2) an additional 22 credits of course work, including HDFS 950, Adolescent Development, and at least four credits of HDFS 911 Practicum in Adolescent Development and an advanced statistics course; plus 3) successful completion and defense of a research thesis (HDFS 899 for 6-10 credits) OR a comprehensive written examination plus eight additional credit hours. Students will design a program of study that may include other departmental courses such as HDFS 876 Children, Adolescents, and the Law; HDFS 857 Race, Class, and Gender; HDFS 846 Human Sexuality; HDFS 860 Family Programs and Policies; and HDFS 894 Families and the Law. Students may also select related courses in other departments, such as EDUC 800 Educational Structure and Change (focusing on gender issues); and SW 814 Introduction to Addiction.

Contact Information

For more information, contact Corinna J. Tucker at 603-862-2146 or via e-mail at cjtucker@cisunix.unh.edu. Application for admission to the Graduate School must be made on the appropriate forms obtained directly from the Graduate School, 109 Thompson Hall, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824-1497. Visit UNH’s graduate school website at http://www.gradschool.unh.edu and the Human Development and Family Studies departmental website at http://www.chhs.unh.edu/hdfs/.