**Individual and Family Development Specialization**

This specialization is intended for students with a broad interest in working with families. The Individual and Family Development specialization provides knowledge about specific life stages of individuals within the context of family systems with a focus on system dynamics, diverse family systems, gender, and cultural differences. This plan of study is designed particularly for those expecting to attend graduate school and those who desire a general background in lifespan development and family dynamics. Students in this specialization may participate in the Family Internship. Further information and criteria is listed under *Internship* below.

**Departmental Requirements**

- FS 525   Human Development
- FS 545   Family Relations
- FS 623   Developmental Perspectives on Infancy and Early Childhood
- FS 624   Developmental Perspectives on Adolescence and Early Adulthood
- FS 625   Adult Development and Aging
- FS 641   Parenting Across the Lifespan
- FS 746   Human Sexuality
- FS 757   Race, Class and Gender
- FS 794   Families and the Law

**Major Requirements**

- PSYCH 402 or SOC 502 or HHS 540

**Supporting Courses**

- FS 760   Family Programs and Policies
- FS 776   Children, Adolescents, and the Law (not offered every year)
- FS 782   Family Internship
- FS 792   Family Internship Seminar
- Research Methods course (e.g., PSYCH 502 Research Methods in Psychology)
- PSYCH 552, 581, 582
- NURS 535
- SOC 540
- A foreign language
- Work with the Institute on Disabilities

**Internship**

In the optional Family Internship (FS 782), students will apply knowledge gained from their academic studies in a supervised environment. The internship involves a commitment of sixteen hours per week for two semesters, plus a three hour seminar (FS 792) every other week. In addition, some organizations may require a criminal background check before placement is finalized. Arrangements for criminal background checks are the responsibility of the student and the requesting organization, not the Department of Family Studies. Students apply for the internship during spring semester of their junior year. Internship applicants must have completed a minimum of twenty credits of departmental coursework prior to their senior year with a minimum departmental GPA of 3.0. Internship courses (782/792) count toward the twenty credits required in supporting courses.

*Students are responsible for insuring they have met all requirements.*