

ONLINE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN FAMILY STUDIES/CHILD DEVELOPMENT – WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

The online Family Studies Program is designed to meet the growing need for professionals with a bachelor's degree in Child Development or Family Studies by offering high quality courses, easily accessible to students. With the exception of 12 credit hours, students may take all course work through online instruction.

The Family Studies Program (with majors in child development and family studies) is located in the department of Family and Consumer Sciences. To learn more about the FCS department, visit www.wmich.edu/coe/fcs

Students who complete online programs successfully are able to accomplish course requirements outside of regular classroom meetings and have computer skills such as emailing, document preparation, PowerPoint®, web browsing, and submission of documents by file transfer procedures. Access to a high-speed internet connection is necessary for taking these courses.

WMU's Office of Academic Technology and Instructional Services (ATIS) stands ready to assist students with technical questions regarding online education. Contact ATIS at 269-387-2847 or by visiting www.atis.wmich.edu.

What is the Family Studies Program?

The Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) department at Western Michigan University offers two unique degrees that focus on the needs of children and families within the context of their communities. The Family Studies (FSDJ) and the Child Development (FCDJ) majors are designed to provide a comprehensive educational curriculum taught from an ecological perspective. The program features a multi-cultural perspective that helps families and individuals interface with a diverse and changing global community. Students explore relationships among individuals, families and their environment and culture with the goal of improving quality of life within communities and society at large.

The Family Studies program includes knowledge about how families work; the inter-relationship of families and society; human growth and development throughout the life span; both the physiological and psychological aspects of human sexuality; the impact of resource management on daily life; the importance and value of education for parenting; the effects of policy and legislation on families; ethical considerations in professional conduct; and a solid understanding and knowledge of how to teach and/or develop curriculum for varied settings. Students with a Bachelor of Science degree in Family Studies or Child Development pursue careers in family life education found throughout health care, religious, social service, military, and corporate settings.

Benefits of a Degree in Child Development or Family Studies

The family studies program prepares students for positions in public or private human service organizations or programs related to children, families and individuals.

These majors are also appropriate for students who are planning on pursuing a master's degree in such areas as Family Life Education, Marriage and Family Therapy, Counseling, Social Work and Communication.

The National Council on Family Relations approved this program and graduates may choose to become Certified Family Life Educators (CFLE). This certification enhances employment opportunities and verifies professional credibility for educators who work with families.

Child Development Major (FCDJ)

The Child Development major prepares individuals to work with infants, toddlers, preschoolers, school-age children, and their families in a variety of settings. This program meets State of Michigan requirements for child care center directors. It is not meant to provide Michigan Teacher Certification.

Recent graduates hold positions with Michigan School Readiness Programs, Head Start, and YWCA; in child development centers, youth programs, alternative education settings, and faith-based organizations; and as early childhood educators, child life specialists, and parent educators.

Family Studies Major (FSDJ)

The Family Studies major prepares students to use preventive and educational approaches in a variety of settings to strengthen individual and family well-being across the life span.

Recent graduates hold positions with Healthy Families, Planned Parenthood, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Bright Beginnings and Senior Services; in state government; and as family court workers, substance abuse assessment specialists, pre-school staff, and volunteer and activity directors.

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For more information contact:

Family and Consumer Sciences Department
Western Michigan University
3326 Kohrman Hall
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5322
269-387-3704
www.wmich.edu/coe/fcs/fst/

WMU – Battle Creek
Kendall Center
50 W. Jackson Street
Battle Creek, MI 49017-3505
269-985-5380
www.bc.wmich.edu

WMU – Grand Rapids
The Graduate Center – Beltline
2333 East Beltline
Grand Rapids, MI 49456-5936
616-771-9470
www.gr.wmich.edu

WMU – Lansing
6105 W. Saint Joseph Hwy, Suite 205
Lansing, MI 48917-4850
517-327-1480
www.lg.wmich.edu

WMU – Southwest
2785 E. Napier Avenue
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
269-934-1500
www.sw.wmich.edu

For technical questions regarding online education contact: ATIS at 269-387-2847 or <http://atis.wmich.edu>

FAMILY STUDIES & CHILD DEVELOPMENT



ONLINE

ATIS

Academic Technology &
Instructional Services



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY



Associate degrees in child development, early childhood or general human services from the following partnering community colleges will articulate directly to WMU:

- Grand Rapids Community College
- Kellogg Community College
- Lansing Community College
- Southwest Michigan Community College
- Lake Michigan College
- Check to see if your community college is partnering with WMU!

Financial Aid and Scholarships Opportunities

At WMU, we provide qualified students with a range of scholarships and financial aid. Scholarships are available through departments, private donors, off campus organizations and programs for veterans, their dependents, and non-traditional students.

All Students

A complete listing of financial aid and scholarship criteria and corresponding applications are found at www.wmich.edu/admissions

Transfer Students

There are five scholarships available for community college transfer students. Each is merit based, with the Office of Admissions determining which applicants are eligible for these awards according to the respective scholarship eligibility criteria. All admitted transfer students who are eligible for transfer scholarships will automatically be mailed information on these scholarships opportunities. For more information visit www.wmich.edu/admi/transfer/ or your Michigan community college counseling office.

The T.E.A.C.H. program offers scholarships to help childcare teachers and providers, who currently work more than 30 hours per week, to complete course work in early childhood education. This scholarship pays for a large portion of the cost of tuition, books, and travel. For more information on T.E.A.C.H. scholarship availability and requirements, visit www.mi4c.org.

For any additional information and questions regarding financial aid and scholarships, please contact the Office of Admissions (269) 387-2000 or Student Financial Aid Office (269) 387-6000

Program Requirements

A minimum of 122 credit hours is required for these majors.

Required Core Courses

The required core courses (37 credit hours) are offered in online, hybrid, and on-campus formats through the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Online:

These classes are completed entirely online.

- FCS 2020: Field Experience (2 cr)
- FCS 2090: Consumer Education (3 cr)
- FCS 2100: Human Sexuality (3 cr)
- FCS 2140: Child Development (3 cr)
- FCS 2150: Adolescent Development (3 cr)
- FCS 2250: Computer Applications (3 cr)
- FCS 2660: Personal Nutrition (3 cr)
- FCS 3150: Global Ecology of the Family (3 cr)
- FCS 4130: Later Life Family Relationships (3 cr)

Online electives (required for Child Development majors):

- FCS 3140: Infant/Toddler Development (3 cr)
- FCS 4290: Internship (2-6 cr)
- CTE 5100: Special Populations in CTE (3 cr)
- FCS 5750: Administration of Child Development Centers (3 cr)

Hybrid:

These classes meet two times during the semester and the remainder of the class is completed online

- FCS 1000: Career Seminar (2 cr)
- FCS 3180: Intimate Relationships (3 cr)
- FCS 5220: Raising Children in Contemporary Society – optional (3 cr)

On-campus:

These classes meet at the main campus in Kalamazoo; they are structured to accommodate students who will have to travel to attend class.

- FCS 4100: Teaching Family Life Education (3 cr)
- FCS 4150: Effective Parenting (3 cr)

General Education*

Completion of Western Michigan University's General Education requirements (37 credit hours)

Suggested Electives*

Based on Family Studies or Child Development major (26-28 credit hours)

*Go to <http://atis.wmich.edu> for a complete listing of available online courses.

Admission Information

The admissions process for the Family Studies program is continuous. To be considered for admission:

- Complete the undergraduate application (available at www.wmich.edu/admissions) and submit it, along with the application fee, to the WMU Office of Admissions. Indicate which major (Child Development – FCDJ or Family Studies – FSDJ) you intend to pursue.

Transfer Students

- Request the official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions that you have attended be mailed directly from that institution to the WMU Office of Admissions.
- After your transfer credits are evaluated, you will receive a Transfer Credit Evaluation and Admission Certificate from WMU. Contact the nearest WMU campus listed in this brochure to schedule an advising appointment.
- Schedule an advising appointment to determine whether you have met MACRAO (General Education requirements) and which credits you are transferring will meet the other requirements.

