Undergraduate Programs in Human Development and Family Studies
America’s changing family dynamics, aging population, and added stress across the workplace and school environments underscore the growing need for professionals who have the critical thinking skills to help support optimal development for individuals and communities.

Our online undergraduate programs in human development and family studies are offered through a strong partnership between Penn State’s College of Health and Human Development and the World Campus, a worldwide leader in online education. The undergraduate HDFS curriculum can help prepare you for the challenges in this dynamic field.

- Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies
- Associate in Science in Human Development and Family Studies
- Undergraduate Certificate in Children, Youth, and Family Services
- Undergraduate Certificate in Adult Development and Aging Services

Penn State values online education as highly as it does resident instruction. No distinction will be made on your official Penn State transcript or diploma that your courses were completed at a distance. The credits you receive are exactly the same as those awarded to on-campus students.

Visit www.worldcampus.psu.edu/hdfs for more information on our programs.
If you want to improve the well-being and health of individuals and communities and set yourself apart from others on the career ladder, Penn State’s online bachelor’s degree in human development and family studies, the associate degree, or one of our undergraduate certificates could be right for you.

You may already know that you want to work or advance in a human service field, but you need the proper credentials to obtain the right job. Or, maybe you simply know that you want to work with people to help improve their lives, but you are not yet sure how to proceed.

Our curriculum focuses on a wide range of human services and many different groups of people, so you can gain an understanding of human development across the life span and the influences of the family and the community on development. You can learn how people and families develop—biologically, psychologically, and socially. Armed with this knowledge, you can then choose the best career path to make your biggest personal impact.

And, even better, with the online courses, you will have the flexibility to study around your schedule without sacrificing any of the meaningful interactions with knowledgeable, caring faculty and fellow students.

**Step-Up Approach**

Our curriculum is designed to help you reach your ultimate academic goal by achieving important milestones, if you choose, along the way. The credits you earn in one of our undergraduate certificates—children, youth, and family services or adult development and aging services—may be transferable to the associate degree in human development and family studies. In turn, the applicable credits that you earn to complete our associate degree may be transferable to the bachelor’s degree in human development and family studies. This model can allow you to experience career benefits all throughout your academic journey.

**Bachelor’s Degree**
Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies (120 credits)

**Associate Degree**
Associate in Science in Human Development and Family Studies (60 credits)

**Certificates**
Undergraduate Certificate in Children, Youth, and Family Services (30 credits)
Undergraduate Certificate in Adult Development and Aging Services (15 credits)
The 120-credit bachelor of science in HDFS program from Penn State can help you learn how individuals develop and change from birth to old age, how families and communities influence these processes, and how to apply this knowledge in order to develop, implement, and evaluate interventions designed to improve people’s lives. The curriculum can provide you with many practical life skills that you should be able to transfer across various aspects of your life and career. With this degree you can gain a better idea of what to expect through the lifespan and how to make interactions with people of all ages as beneficial as possible.

**Career Opportunities**

Employers in the human-service field are looking for professionals who can oversee treatments and interventions; plan, organize, implement, and coordinate programs; supervise the operations of various centers; and provide leadership for projects. Because of the broad curriculum that covers the entire life span and many different circumstances, you could be prepared for careers that help you make a difference in a wide range of organizations, including:

- preschools, summer camps, and after-school programs
- marriage and family programs
- youth and family service organizations
- elder care and services agencies
- child life programs in medical settings
- mental health facilities
- drug and alcohol treatment centers
- health care facilities
- nonprofit organizations
- human resource departments

These undergraduate programs can also prepare you well for graduate school or advanced clinical training in the social, behavioral, and health sciences.

**Practical Applications**

Both the associate and the bachelor’s degrees include a uniquely designed human development and family studies internship. Through this real-world experience, you can gain a deeper appreciation and more thorough understanding of your field of interest. Designed to enhance your overall learning, this internship can help set you apart in the highly competitive job market.
Undergraduate Certificates and Associate Degree

Children, Youth, and Family Services
This 30-credit undergraduate certificate can help you learn about individual and family development at all stages of the life cycle. The course work will explore the social, behavioral, and biological aspects of infant, child, and adolescent development within the context of the family, and review historical and current perspectives and intervention approaches.

Adult Development and Aging Services
As our nation’s population of older people continues to grow, this field will require many more workers over the coming decades. This 15-credit undergraduate certificate can provide you with a deeper understanding of the issues associated with the aging and the elderly. It focuses on the biological, psychological, and social development of adults and elderly persons, with special emphasis on the various contexts of adult development, optimal aging, and longevity.

Associate in Science in Human Development and Family Studies
The 60-credit associate degree in HDFS integrates practical and academic experiences to provide you with entry-level knowledge in the human service fields. The curriculum can provide you with a general education background, an understanding of life span and family development, and a core of professional skills that may be applied in program planning and service delivery activities. Whether you already work in a human service–related field or are looking for an entry point into related fields such as social work, education, nonprofit administration, human resources, law and government, or research, you could benefit from this degree.
Why Penn State?

Online Delivery Experience
Since 1892, students like you have been able to complete a Penn State education without traveling to a physical campus. Over the years, distance education options have evolved to include technology-enhanced learning experiences. As a pioneer in online learning, Penn State has significant experience in teaching, and understanding the needs of busy adults learning at a distance.

You can experience courses that are:
• designed around the best practices in online delivery
• taught by faculty with experience teaching in an online environment
• created using technology to support learning outcomes, not just convenience

A Fully Supported Education
When you think of online education, you may feel like you are on your own, but that could not be further from the truth. Our team of career academic advisers and help-desk support is committed to your success. Through World Campus, you will have access to student support services just as our on-campus students do.

Our student services include:
• new student orientation
• academic advising and career counseling resources
• a nationally recognized research library
• technical help desk
• tutorials

Exceptional Students and Alumni
Whether you take your courses online or in a traditional classroom, as a “Penn Stater” you:
• become part of an institution with more than 150 years of excellence in teaching, research, and service
• join a global community of exceptional adult learners from all 50 states, more than 40 countries, and 7 continents
• become part of a proud worldwide network of more than 500,000 alumni and, upon your graduation, you can choose to join the largest alumni association in the world, with more than 160,000 members

A Military Friendly University
Penn State has the experience you need to help you meet your goals during and after your service to your country. Through our commitment to increasing access to education for military personnel, veterans, and military family members, we have aligned our online programs, student support services, policies, and procedures to address your unique needs.
The HDFS curriculum takes a holistic approach by focusing on individual development from birth to old age across many different perspectives.

Employment is expected to grow faster than average in social and human service fields through 2020.

Did you know?

- Our online undergraduate programs in HDFS can successfully prepare you for graduate school studies to diversify your training even further.
- Penn State credits and degrees earned online are identical to those earned on campus.

To apply to the bachelor’s degree program, the associate degree, or a certificate, you must be a high school graduate or have obtained a GED.

**Necessary Documentation**

- Official high school transcripts or GED transcript
- Official military transcripts (if applicable) and/or official college or university transcripts, if you attended another institution
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score, if applicable

Visit our admissions website for a more detailed description of the requirements and application procedure: [www.worldcampus.psu.edu/admissions](http://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/admissions)
For More Information

**Contact Us**
pennstateonline@psu.edu
www.worldcampus.psu.edu
800-252-3592 (toll free within the United States)
814-865-5403 (local and international)
814-865-3290 Fax

**Student Services Hours**
(inquiries and registration)
8:00 a.m.–9:30 p.m. Monday–Thursday
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Friday
Closed Saturday and Sunday

**Admissions Counseling Hours**
8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. Monday–Thursday
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Friday
Closed Saturday and Sunday

Penn State World Campus
The Pennsylvania State University
128 Outreach Building
University Park PA 16802