



Department of Human Development & Family Studies

Master's Degree in Youth Development (MA and Online Only)

An estimated 17,000 organizations (e.g., 4-H, Boys and Girls Clubs, Boys Scouts and Girls Scouts) currently serve more than 30 million young people, and national trends are moving away from focusing on problems and behavior correction, instead favoring a positive approach that focuses on developing the strengths of youth.

The 36 credit master's degree program (MA) consists of 10 required courses (28 credits) and a Project and/or Problems experience totaling 8 credits. Core courses offered within the program include nine 3-credit courses and a 1-credit professional-development seminar.

Courses are Selected From (36 hours minimum):

Required:

HDFS 7231: Foundations of Youth Development (1)

HDFS 7234: Adolescents and their Families

HDFS 7235: Administration and Program
Management

HDFS 7236: Federal and State Policies that Impact
Youth Development

HDFS 7237: Youth Cultures

HDFS 7239: Community Youth Development

HDFS 7240: Youth Development

HDFS 8232: Youth Professionals as Consumers of
Research

HDFS 8238: Program Design, Evaluation, and
Implementation

HDFS 8090: Research Project (1-8 credits)

Electives:

HDFS 7001: Topics in Contemporary Youth Issues:
Substance Use

HDFS 7001: Topics in Contemporary Youth Issues:
Global Perspectives

HDFS 8085: Problems (1-8 credits)

Upon successful completion of the Youth Development program the student will be able to:

- Understand, integrate, and be able to apply conceptual approaches to youth development (e.g., asset building, positive youth development, community youth development, risk and resiliency).
- Understand normative pathways to development; Understand youth and family cultural issues/contexts and their micro-and macro-influences on positive youth outcomes.
- Understand and apply basic research and evaluation skills to youth development programming through an applied project that serves as a capstone experience under the direction of the candidate's home institution.
- Develop skills in problem-solving with "stakeholders" including funding sources, boards, other agencies, families and other professionals.
- Demonstrate understanding of the development and impact of local, regional, state, federal, and global policies on youth and be able to advocate through policy development for optimal youth outcomes.
- Develop and apply resources (e.g., agency budgeting, grant writing and processing, fund raising) for successful implementation and management of youth-serving organizations.
- Understand the history of the youth development area and advocate for the continued professionalization of the field.

