Prevention, Education, Collaboration:
Promoting Healthy Development across the Lifespan

Have you ever wondered...

If the way you were raised has impacted your future?
Why some relationships work out so well and others don't?
Why some people struggle while others seem to move through life with ease?

The Human Development and Family Studies (HDF) major helps students discover the answers to these questions.

HDF majors understand the process of how people grow, develop, and change over time, and how to apply prevention and education strategies to promote healthy development and well-being. When individuals and families encounter barriers, HDF majors help to facilitate change, coordinate resources, and foster collaboration across multiple disciplines. Students are equipped to help people transition through life and work toward their individual and family goals.

Underlying skills that are helpful when working with people are emphasized. HDF majors learn specific tools, techniques, and strategies in communication, empathy, respect, diversity, building relationships, teamwork and leadership. Students graduate with a deep understanding of the complexity of human interactions.

Core Skills

Teamwork, Communication, and Leadership
- using interprofessional education to collaborate with professional teams

Ecological Systems Theory
- how personal, family, community and societal factors impact development and relationships

Relationship Building
- maintaining personal and professional relationships in a healthy and engaged way

"The Human Development and Family Studies major provided me with knowledge and training in a broad range of areas such as research, family systems, public health, child development, and more. The HDF courses prepared me to go directly into graduate school and feel confident in my coursework. The professors in this program were incredibly supportive and I still use the skills that I learned at URI in my current career as a clinical researcher."

- Meredith Rose, '15

www.uri.edu/human-development
Child, Community, & Social Services
This concentration prepares students for future careers helping individuals and families in social service settings.

Careers:
- Service Coordinator
- Family Coach
- Youth Development Worker
- After School Program Director
- Daycare Provider
- Academic Advisor
- Early Interventionist

Graduate Fields of Study:
- Developmental Science
- Social Work
- Child Development
- School Psychologist
- Criminal Justice

Family Advocacy & Economic Well-being
This concentration prepares students for future careers helping families to advocate for resources that promote self-reliance and resilience.

Careers:
- Consumer Protection Agencies
- Family Financial Counseling
- Food Assistance Programs
- Community Education
- Human Resources
- Family Advocacy Agencies
- Employee Assistance Programs

Graduate Fields of Study:
- Developmental Science
- Consumer Finance
- Family Law
- Nonprofit Management
- Public Policy

Counseling
This concentration prepares students for future careers working with individuals and families in counseling and therapy settings.

Careers:
- Counseling
- Intake Coordinator
- Clinical Case Manager
- Substance Abuse Prevention
- Children’s Special Needs Counselor
- Residential Treatment Worker

Graduate Fields of Study:
- Couple and Family Therapy
- Clinical Social Work
- Mental Health Counseling
- Applied Behavior Analysis
- School/Clinical/Counseling Psychology

Aging & Health
This concentration prepares students for future careers within various health-related and community settings. Aging spans the lifespan from newborns to older adults.

Careers:
- YMCAs
- Health Research
- Nursing Homes
- Hospice
- Early Intervention Services
- Health Care Centers

Graduate Fields of Study:
- Public Health
- Nursing
- Medical School
- Pediatric/Health Psychology
- Gerontology