

CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES

What can I do with this major?

AREAS

PRE-SCHOOL/DAY CARE

Teaching
Parent-Child Education
Administration:
 Curriculum Development
 Training
 Management

EMPLOYERS

Private, public, franchise and corporate day care centers
Pre-schools
Montessori schools
Religious organizations
Extended school programs
Recreation programs
Health clubs
Private homes
Family day care
Federal, state and local government:
 Department of Health and Human Services
 Head Start

STRATEGIES

Obtain experience working with children through volunteer, intern or part-time positions.
Demonstrate patience, creativity and the ability to work well with people of various backgrounds.
Develop strong communications skills to deal effectively with students, staff and parents.
Acquire appropriate certification, such as Child Development Associate (CDA) or Pre-K licensure for some pre-school settings. Certification varies by state.
Note that some private employers seek staff whose religious values match their organizations' missions.

EDUCATION

Teaching:
 Early Childhood Education
 Early Childhood Special Education
 Home Economics
 Family and Consumer Sciences
Curriculum Development
Research
Counseling
Administration
College Student Affairs

Public and private schools (K-12)
Public pre-school programs (Head Start)
Private pre-school programs
Montessori schools
Adult education programs
Extension offices
Colleges and universities

Develop excellent interpersonal, public speaking and writing skills.
Learn to work well with different types of people.
Gain experience working with a target age group through mentoring, tutoring or volunteering with a school-based organization.
Serve as a peer mentor, resident assistant or student advisor to cultivate leadership and communication skills.
Join student chapters of national teaching organizations.
Acquire appropriate certification for public school (and some private school) teaching positions, which varies by state.
Obtain graduate degree for counseling, student affairs and administrative positions.
A master's degree may be sufficient for teaching at community or two-year institutions.
Pursue a Ph.D. for college and university teaching and research opportunities.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

SOCIAL SERVICES

Case Management
Counseling
Advocacy
Program Development
Community Education
Volunteer Coordination
Administration
Research
Evaluation
Fundraising
Public Relations
Grant Writing

Community centers
Youth services agencies/ programs
Family services agencies/ programs (financial, family planning, health and wellness, marriage, vocational, food/housing assistance, military family support)
Senior citizens programs
Nursing homes
Assisted living facilities
Rehabilitation organizations
Group homes
Half-way houses
Mediation centers
Consulting firms
Consumer protection agencies
Adoption agencies
Federal, state and local government including:
 Department of Health and Human Services:
 Administration on Aging
 Administration for Children and Families
 Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration
 Health Resources & Services Administration
 Department of Veterans Affairs
 Department of Justice:
 Probation and parole offices
 Correctional facilities

Exhibit a desire to help others, along with communication and organizational skills.
Seek experience as a volunteer, intern or paid employee with social service or non-profit organizations.
Become familiar with government and community resources available for those in need.
Develop a wide range of skills such as presenting, grant writing and fundraising, as professionals in nonprofit organizations may fill multiple roles in their positions.
Learn to work well with different types of people from varying socioeconomic, racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds.
Supplement curriculum with courses in social work, sociology or psychology.
Pursue additional coursework to specialize in an area or with a certain population such as addiction, gerontology, child welfare, etc.
Consider earning Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) credential through the National Council on Family Relations.
Become familiar with government hiring procedures.
Obtain a master's degree and appropriate licensure in mental health counseling, social work or rehabilitation counseling to provide therapy.
Earn a graduate degree for greater access to administrative positions.

AREAS

ADVOCACY

Domestic and International Advocacy
Humanitarian Services, i.e. human rights, family planning, world health, disaster relief
Development:
 Economic
 Community
 Housing
Policy Development
Program Administration
Fundraising/Development
Volunteer Coordination
Grant Writing

EMPLOYERS

Community action agencies
Nonprofit organizations
Private voluntary organizations
Faith based organizations (FBO's) and churches
International aid and relief organizations
NGO's (Non-governmental Organizations), i.e.
 Action Aid, Oxfam, International Red Cross
Federal government agencies with
 International focus: Peace Corps, USAID,
 Foreign Service (State Department)
 Community assistance focus: Housing and
 Urban Development, Department of Health
 and Human Services
State and local government agencies

STRATEGIES

Demonstrate strong desire to help others.
Volunteer at social service agencies to gain experience and demonstrate interest.
Participate in campus "alternative break" trips or church-led mission trips to gain experience assisting groups in need.
Pursue leadership roles in campus and community advocacy organizations, and learn how to motivate individuals and groups.
Develop excellent research, writing, communication and organizational skills; fundraising experience may be helpful for some positions.
Complete an internship with a government organization in area of interest.
Research federal, state and local job application procedures.

HEALTHCARE

Hospital Based Family Support/Child Life Services (provide emotional support, educate children and families, identify resources, coordinate events)
Health, Nutrition, Safety Education
Advocacy

Hospitals
Doctors' offices
Healthcare facilities
Specialized camps/schools
Hospice programs
Funeral homes
Social service organizations
Public health programs
Federal, state and local government including:
 Department of Health and Human Services:
 Administration on Aging
 Administration for Children and Families
 Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration
 Health Resources & Services Administration

Volunteer in a healthcare setting such as a hospital or specialized children's camp.
Develop a high comfort level working in clinical environments with children and families under stress.
Acquire strong communication skills, and plan to work on interdisciplinary teams of doctors, nurses, counselors, etc. who provide care to children.
Obtain Child Life Specialist certification through the Child Life Council, and be willing to relocate for greater access to positions in children's hospitals.
Prepare to work nights, weekends and holidays in some healthcare settings.
Earn a master's degree in social work, counseling, nutrition, public health or related area for increased opportunities.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

BUSINESS

Market Research
Product Testing
Product Development
Management
Sales
Customer Service

Manufacturing companies of children's clothes,
toys, furniture and food
Consumer protection agencies
Department and retail stores
Social service organizations with business compo-
nents, i.e. tax assistance, financial planning

Demonstrate initiative, attention to detail, organiza-
tion and problem-solving skills.
Learn to communicate effectively with a wide-range
of people. Consider taking interpersonal
communication and public speaking classes.
Earn a business minor or supplement program with
courses such as accounting, management,
finance, etc. to increase understanding of
business theory.
Obtain sales/retail experience with companies
catering to children's needs.
Join business or retail student organizations and
secure leadership positions.

COMMUNICATIONS

Research
Curriculum/Resource Development
Journalism
Writing
Editing
Public Relations

Organizations geared toward children and families
including:
Book publishers
Radio and TV stations
Newspapers
Magazines
Social service organizations
Manufacturers
Consumer protection agencies
Professional associations

Develop excellent grammar and writing skills.
Learn to think critically and research effectively.
Take elective courses in the communications field
such as journalism, broadcasting, public
relations and advertising, or earn a minor in one
area of interest.
Obtain experience with a college newspaper,
yearbook, alumni publication or with local radio
or television stations.
Compile a portfolio of writing samples, ad cam-
paigns and other relevant work, especially those
that have been published.
Develop desktop publishing, webpage design and
other computer skills. Online communication is
increasing, while print is declining.
Pursue an active role, preferably leadership, in
journalism organizations.
Prepare to work in deadline-oriented environments
and to withstand criticism.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- A Bachelor's degree is sufficient for entry-level positions.
- Advanced degrees are essential for clinical and therapeutic counseling positions.
- The Child and Family Studies major can serve as preparation for students pursuing advanced training in other areas such as healthcare, i.e. pediatric nursing, family medicine; law, i.e. family law, elder law, child advocacy; and ministry, i.e. youth ministry, pastoral counseling. Research admissions requirements and take pre-requisite courses for programs of interest.
- A Master's degree or Ph.D. is often needed for administrative and supervisory positions.
- A Ph.D. is required for most college teaching and advanced research positions.
- Additional or specialized training qualifies one for higher paying opportunities and positions of greater responsibility.
- Obtain part-time, summer, internship or volunteer experience in child care, schools, hospitals, camps, or overseas programs or in advocacy or service-oriented programs addressing alcoholism, drug abuse, family violence, aging, poverty, disabilities, etc.
- Obtain certification for specialized areas including Child Life Specialist or Family Life Educator.