

**TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES GRADUATE PROGRAMS  
DOCTORAL DEGREE**

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

The objective of the Human Development and Family Studies graduate programs is to provide a general substantive knowledge in the development of individual, family, and interpersonal processes and their applications across the life course. Core courses introduce students to theory and research in the field. Our goal is to foster intellectual development, stimulate meaningful research, and develop skills that will facilitate the pursuit of the student's professional goals. The doctoral program requires theory, research methodology, statistics, qualifying exams, and a dissertation to meet the academic requirements for a Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies.

Opportunities exist within the department for students to gain a variety of applied experiences dealing with individuals and families across the lifespan. Facilities within the department include the Child Development Research Center, Early Head Start, Fatherhood Project, Helping Young Children through Divorce, Parenting through Change for Latina Single Mothers, Parent Empowerment Project, Center for Child and Adolescent Development and Resiliency, institute for Child and Family Studies, Retired Senior Volunteer Program, and Ambassadors Program. These, in addition to resources within the university and community, offer opportunities for training in program design, implementation, and evaluation for interested students.

Emphasis is placed on research, which is a vital component of graduate education. Through various programs funded by federal and state grants, the HDFS department makes available opportunities for graduate students to be involved in research conducted by graduate faculty. It is the department's goal to help support students' graduate work by providing assistantships. These assistantships allow for research on a variety of topics and pressing issues in human development and family studies. A strong commitment is made by the department and the faculty to actively mentor students through:

- Extensive coursework in research methodology and statistics including training in the use of computers in research.
- Provision of individual, no-cost, expert consultation on statistics and methodology
- Involvement in a research colloquium with faculty in the student's area beginning in the first semester in the program.
- Active and extensive guidance from and involvement by the faculty advisor in the student's candidacy and dissertation work

The Department is committed to the principle that in no aspect of its programs shall there any discrimination because of race, creed, national origin, sexual orientation, age, gender, or disability, and that equal opportunity and access to facilities shall be available to all.