DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY STUDIES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Office
College of Liberal Arts Building, Suite 2210
410-704-5851

Programs Of The Department

The Department of Family Studies and Community Development offers two majors: Family and Human Services and Family Science. A minor in Family Studies also is offered.

The Family and Human Services major provides students with academic and field experiences related to the study of individual and family development across the lifespan, with an emphasis on human service education. A Family and Human Services major may choose among four tracks: Human Services, Services to Children and Youth, Introduction to Child Life, and Leadership in the Nonprofit Sector. Academic preparation includes the study of family life methodology, theories of family functioning, dynamics within families, and the interaction between families and society. The curriculum includes course work that emphasizes civic engagement through service learning. The service learning activities are designed to provide students with opportunities to integrate course work with real-life professional experiences. Field experiences include observation, small group community service assignments, and internships. Community participation is required in several courses.

The Family Science major provides students with academic experiences focusing on the study of families and relationships in the context of contemporary society. The major offers training in the scientific methods used to understand family behavior and development across the lifespan. Students learn to analyze the quality of family life through applied research, and they acquire both written and oral communication skills across the Family Science curriculum. Majoring in Family Science will provide a concentration on the social/behavioral science foundation necessary for those working in education and human services as well as those seeking graduate education in social sciences, health professions, education, and law.

Graduate Programs

The department offers a B.S./M.S. five-year program in Family and Human Services-Introduction to Child Life track (B.S.) and Child Life, Administration and Family Collaboration (M.S.); an M.S. in Child Life, Administration and Family Collaboration; a B.A. (or B.S.)/M.A. five-year program in Family Science and Leadership in Jewish Education and Communal Service; an M.A. in Leadership in Jewish Education and Communal Service; and Post-Baccalaureate Certificates in Family-Professional Collaboration, Jewish Education and Jewish Communal Service. See the Graduate Catalog for additional details.

Student Organizations

The Department of Family Studies and Community Development sponsors two student organizations.

The Towson University Student Council on Family Relations (TUSCFR) is affiliated with the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR).

The Towson University Child Life Club is open to undergraduate and graduate students who are interested in learning more about children’s healthcare settings. Club members provide service to area facilities that work with children and families with healthcare concerns.

Advising

Advising is an important component of a student’s experience. Family Studies majors meet regularly with department advisers who help them plan for the future. Please note the specific information about the advising process listed below.

1. Family Studies students must meet individually with their assigned advisers at least once a term. All advisers have times set aside during the week to address students’ questions and concerns or to speak with students who simply want to check in and review progress and plans. Students should contact their advisers to set up appointments.

2. All new majors receive a welcome message with contact information for their assigned academic adviser, directions to the department’s Blackboard Advising Module, and forms to complete prior to their first advising appointment. New or potential majors may contact the Department of Family Studies and Community Development either via phone at 410-704-5851 or via e-mail at FMST@towson.edu.

3. Some FMST courses require special permits. These are given out by the department chairperson.

Transfer Credit Policy

Students may transfer no more than 18 credits toward the major in Family and Human Services or Family Science. Transfer credit must be approved by the department.

Majors in Family Studies and Community Development

- Major in Family and Human Services (http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/family-studies-community-development/family-human-services)
- Major in Family Science (http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/family-studies-community-development/family-science)
- Combined Major in Family Science and Health Science (http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/family-studies-community-development/combined-family-science-health-science)

Combined Bachelor's/Master's Programs

- Combined Bachelor’s in Family and Human Services/Introduction to Child Life Track and Master’s in Child Life, Administration and Family Collaboration (http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/family-studies-community-development/combined-bachelors-family-human-services-masters-child-life)
- Combined Bachelor's in Family and Human Services and Master's in Leadership in Jewish Education/Communal Service (http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/family-studies-community-development/combined-bachelors-family-human-services-masters-leadership)
- Combined Bachelor's in Family Science and Master's in Leadership in Jewish Education (http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/family-studies-community-development/combined-bachelors-family-science-leadership)
Department of Family Studies and Community Development

community-development/combined-bachelors-family-science-masters-jewish-communal-service)

• Minor in Family Studies (http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/family-studies-community-development/family-studies-minor)