

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
Department of Family Studies
Master of Science Degree

Core Area of Study: Adolescent Development

The Department of Family Studies at the University of New Hampshire offers a program of study leading to a master of science degree in Family Studies with a core area of study in Adolescent Development. This core area of study is designed to develop general competence in understanding and applying theory and research regarding adolescent development with particular emphasis on the influences of families and communities. This core area of study is grounded in an ecological approach that focuses on supporting the health and well being of all adolescents with special attention to using a developmental perspective to develop programs, policies, and other interventions that address contemporary risk and protective factors. Those accepted into the program for this area of study will be expected to participate in a research project involving adolescents and also to complete an internship with a program working with, or for, adolescents. A special resource supporting this area of study is the UNH Center on Adolescence located in the department. The mission of the Center is to provide research capacity, education and training, and evidence-based information about adolescents and their families. Students accepted into the core area of study will have an opportunity to be involved in the activities of the Center and the faculty and staff associated with it.

Admission Requirements

Students in good academic standing with undergraduate degrees in any field and a specific interest in working with adolescents are encouraged to apply. If a student's undergraduate program does not include an introductory statistics course or the equivalent, successful completion of such a course is required before beginning graduate work. Students seeking admission must submit recent scores from the Graduate Record Examination general test unless a waiver has been approved by the department. Additional admissions information and personal interviews may be required of applicants.

M.S. Degree Requirements

Requirements include: 1) completion of the 12-credit core curriculum: FS 991 *Professional Issues for Family Specialists*; FS 993 *Theoretical Approaches to Family Studies*; FS 994 *Research Seminar*; 2) an additional 22 credits of course work, including FS 850, *Adolescent Development*, and at least four credits of FS 911 *Practicum in Adolescent Development* and an advanced statistics course; plus 3) successful completion and defense of a research thesis (FS 899 for 6-10 credits) **OR** a comprehensive written examination plus eight additional credit hours.

Students will design a program of study that may include other departmental courses such as *Children, Adolescents, and the Law*; *Race, Class, and Gender*; *Human Sexuality*; *Family Programs and Policies*; and *Families and the Law*. Students may also select related courses in other departments, such as *Educational Structure and Change* (focusing on gender issues); *Introduction to Addiction*; *Juvenile Crime and Justice*; *Drug and Chemical Dependency*; *Mentoring Adolescent Girls*, and *Women's Health*.

Resources

UNH Center on Adolescence - The center supports research on adolescence, provides training and education on issues critical to adolescent well-being, and makes available state-of-the-art information about youth. The center is based on a positive youth development perspective.
<http://www.adolescence.unh.edu/>

Contact Information

For more information, contact Kristine Baber or Corinna Jenkins Tucker at 603-862-2146 or via e-mail at kmbaber@cisunix.unh.edu or cjtucker@unh.edu. Application for admission to the Graduate School must be made on the appropriate forms obtained directly from the Graduate School, 109 Thompson Hall, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824-1497. Visit UNH's graduate school website at <http://www.gradschool.unh.edu> and the Family Studies departmental website at <http://www.shhs.unh.edu/fs/>.