

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

Core Area of Study: Child Advocacy and Family Policy

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 Child Advocacy and Family Policy. This thesis/non-thesis program is designed to develop general competence in understanding theory and research regarding advocacy and policy issues impacting children and families. Those accepted into the program for this core area of study will be expected to work with selected state, national, and international agencies as child advocacy interns, develop expertise on at least one advocacy issue, and conduct research on an advocacy-related topic.

Admission Requirements

Students in good academic standing with undergraduate degrees in any related field and a specific interest in serving as advocates 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. 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*; FS993 *Theoretical Approaches to Family Studies*; FS 994 *Research Seminar*; (2) an additional 26 credits of course work including FS 872 *International Approaches to Child Advocacy*, FS 873 *International Perspectives on Children and Families*, FS 894 *Families and the Law*, at least eight credits of FS 911 *Child Advocacy Internship*, and an advanced statistical course; plus (3) successful completion and defense of a research thesis (FS 899 for 6-10 credits) **OR** a comprehensive exam, plus 8 credits of additional coursework.

Students will design a program of study that may include other departmental courses such as *Children, Adolescents and the Law*; and *Families, Schools and Community*. Students may select related courses in other departments as well, such as *Leadership in Early Childhood Education*; *Courts and Public Policy*; and *Poverty and Inequality*.

Contact Information

For more information, contact Elizabeth Dolan or Michael Kalinowski at 603-862-2146 or via e-mail at emd@cisunix.unh.edu or mk2@cisunix.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 <http://www.gradschool.unh.edu> and the Family Studies departmental website at <http://www.shhs.unh.edu/fs/>.