

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING HDFS MAJORS

Do you offer scholarships?

All first-time college students who complete the Purdue admission application by November 1, and who are admitted, will be considered for University Scholarships. Additional scholarship opportunities for current students are posted on the HHS website as they become available for application.

Can I finish the HDFS majors in 4 Years?

The HDFS majors are all designed to be completed in four years with students taking 15-18 credits per semester. However, students who encounter challenges and are not able to take this amount of credits, or who need to repeat courses, will take longer to finish a degree. Also, students who enter the majors after the freshman year (CODO) may take longer to finish, particularly Early Childhood Education and Exceptional Needs and Family and Consumer Sciences Education.

Do you encourage study abroad?

Yes, definitely! Semester study abroad programs are currently being established for the Human Services and Developmental and Family Studies majors. Students majoring in Early Childhood Education and Exceptional Needs or Family and Consumer Sciences Education in particular need to plan early with their advisor, as many courses are sequential. Study abroad programs offered during summer and breaks work particularly well with these majors.

What is the class size for courses in the HDFS majors? Are they taught by professors or TA's?

Classes vary in size; students will have some large lecture courses in the beginning classes for the HDFS majors and also for some general education courses. Major courses average 20-40 students; most are taught by faculty with assistance from TA's or professional staff.

Is it possible to double major?

Human Services and Developmental and Family Sciences lend themselves well to double-majoring. Family and Consumer Sciences Education and Early Childhood Education and Exceptional Needs have few elective credits, so students who want to double major will need to add time to their program.

Will I be able to be employed when I graduate with a HDFS major?

The HDFS Department has a strong reputation for preparing undergraduates well for professional positions; however, what you do in the years you are at Purdue will play a major role in your job applications after graduation. Doing well in your coursework, seeking to develop your leadership skills through campus activities, and gaining experience working with people of all ages all are ways to enhance your resume and increase your marketability upon graduation.

What is the difference between the Human Services major and a Social Work major?

Although students may end up working in similar positions upon graduation, Human Services and Social work are different programs. The Human Services major prepares graduates to work in social services programs through an academic preparation focusing on human development, family studies, and case management skills. Students majoring in Human Services are not eligible for a social work license; however, Human Services is an excellent preparation for graduate work in the field of social work.

If I get a Teaching License in Indiana, will I be able to get a license in another state?

The State of Indiana has an agreement with many states so that an individual holding a valid Indiana license may readily be able to obtain a license in other states. Students are instructed to contact the state of interest and Purdue's Office of Teacher Education and Licensure (BRNG 3229) can assist in this process, also.