

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SCIENCE DOCTORAL PROGRAM

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

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How do I get selected for admission to the HDFS Graduate program?

We use an apprenticeship model, which means that there is a strong mentor-mentee relationship throughout the program. This starts at the admissions stage. If the faculty member you would like to work with is planning to accept a student, they will select the strongest students with the best fit from the pool of applicants who want to work with them, and advocate for their admission to the program. Then, the entire faculty rates the likelihood of students to succeed in the program. Because we highly encourage students to work with multiple faculty members, and to ensure fit with the program, **it is best to select two or three faculty members with whom you would be excited to work.** It can also be helpful to name these faculty members and how your interests align with their research/why you are excited to work with them in your statement of purpose in the application.

How do I find out about potential faculty mentors?

Our [faculty research areas](#) page is a good place to start to find faculty research interests. From there, click on the research areas to see who is doing research in specific areas or click on the 'Faculty Directory' button to get a full list of the faculty in HDFS. Each faculty page includes contact information, research interests and recent publications, and more.

Should I contact a prospective faculty mentor prior to submitting my application?

Absolutely. Prior to applying it is important that you contact the faculty mentor(s) that you are hoping to work with. This initial contact will not only serve to introduce you to the faculty, but to find out if a particular graduate faculty mentor will be accepting new mentees in the upcoming session. In addition, it creates the opportunity for you to learn about work planned in that research group, and initiate discussion about how your interests and goals will fit with the faculty mentor's research focus.

What should I know before I contact a prospective Graduate Faculty Mentor, and what should I ask them about?

In advance of contacting a potential mentor, you should review their research focus found on our [faculty research areas](#) page. In addition, review recent publications, listed on their individual pages, so that you are familiar with their current scope of work. If your goals and research interests align with a potential faculty mentor, you should contact him/her to introduce yourself, express interest, and ask whether they are considering accepting a graduate student.

Must applicants have an undergraduate degree in Human Development and Family Science?

No. We admit students with a range of backgrounds, although it can be helpful to have taken coursework in families, behavioral, health, education, and/or social sciences.

How do I apply and what information is required?

Requirements for the HDFS graduate program can be found [here](#). Applications must be [submitted online](#). You will be asked to submit official transcripts of grades for university coursework, proof of English proficiency (for international applicants whose native language is not English), 3 letters of recommendation, a statement of purpose, a personal history statement, and an application fee. Please follow instructions on the graduate school website [here](#) for transcript submission.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CONTINUED

Are GRE scores required?

While the department does not require the GRE, if you did take the GRE, you are welcome to submit it with your application and it will be reviewed in the context of your entire application.

What is the ETS code for the TOEFL exam?

The institution code is 1631.

From whom should I request recommendation letters?

Letters from your former professors are looked upon most favorably. We are most interested in an assessment of your ability to complete graduate level work, your writing and critical thinking skills, and how you can contribute to our academic community.

How much does it cost to apply?

The Graduate School application fee is \$60 (U.S. dollars) for domestic applicants and \$75 (U.S. dollars) for international applicants. The application fee must be paid (or waived) before the Graduate School forwards your application to our department. Information on obtaining an application fee waiver can be found through this [link](#).

How long does it take to complete a graduate degree?

On average, full-time students who come in without a master's degree complete the program in 5 to 6 years; the first 2 to 3 years is focused on earning a master's degree and an additional 2 to 3 years is typical for completion of the PhD. For students who already have a thesis-based master's degree, typical time to completion of the PhD is between 4 to 5 years.

How much does it cost to attend Purdue?

For current course fees and a tuition and cost calculator go to www.purdue.edu/bursar. However, please see the next section on funding opportunities.

What types of funding opportunities are available?

Historically students have received funding for the duration of the program. Funding covers tuition and fees as well as a stipend or monthly salary. Graduate students who work 20 hours a week (this is considered full-time) are eligible for health insurance.

Graduate students are typically funded on the following types of assistantships: Research Assistantships are funded by faculty research grants, and the student is expected to work on the faculty research projects. Teaching Assistantships are available for students who would like to gain teaching experience, and/or whose faculty member does not have funding, and the student is expected to assist in the instruction of courses led by faculty members. Later in the program, students may have the opportunity to teach a course as instructor of record under a teaching assistantship.

There are a number of fellowships and grants awarded both within- and outside the department to exceptionally strong applicants. The type of assistantships/ fellowships that fund any given student typically changes year-to-year, so it is possible to be funded by several and gain the experiences that come with each over the course of your graduate career here.



Department of Human
Development and Family Science