FAMILY SCIENCE

Our department advances the concept of family well-being as the foundation for a healthy society. We explore issues such as parenting and couple relationships, poverty, domestic violence, family finance, mental health, maternal and child health, health disparities, and family and health policy. We promote individual, family and community strategies to improve the public’s health through research, clinical practice, family advocacy and public policy analysis at local, national and international levels.

Ours is the first department of its kind located in an accredited School of Public Health, and we are committed to understanding the role family relationships play as one of the social determinants of health. Because of our strong emphasis on diversity, disparities and community outreach and education, the University of Maryland President’s Commission on Ethnic Minority Issues has repeatedly recognized our department as an “outstanding academic unit.”

Recent research and service projects include:

- Research on HIV-IPV risk reduction for women and couples
- Groundbreaking studies of relationships between abortion, unintended pregnancy, and mental health
- Investigations into racial disparities in vaccine uptake
- A teen pregnancy and parenting research group that evaluates interventions to address the needs of teen parents and reduce teen pregnancy
- A federally funded program in which veterans train service dogs and evaluate possible benefits to trainers’ mental health and family relationships

Students graduate with skills and knowledge for professional work in educational, governmental, research and clinical settings.

Damian Waters
MS, ’09, COUPLE AND FAMILY THERAPY
PHD, ’15, FAMILY SCIENCE
Generations Program, Fatherhood Coordinator, Children’s Hospital

“My research interests center around fathers—low-income men, minority men, and young fathers. The reason I study this is that fatherhood and family dynamics are an important component of the social determinants of health that we have yet to fully understand.”

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

RANKED 8 Best Value College Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine
RANKED 15 Most Innovative School U.S. News & World Report
RANKED 22 Public Research Institution U.S. News & World Report
Graduate Degrees Offered

MASTER OF SCIENCE, COUPLE AND FAMILY THERAPY (CFT)

Train to become a professional with superior therapeutic skills, ethical integrity, intellectual curiosity and a sincere commitment to working with families from diverse populations. You’ll undertake coursework and receive the supervised clinical training required in states with Couple and Family Therapy licensure. Recognized among the top programs of its kind in the nation, our CFT degree offers real-world experience through the Center for Healthy Families, a state-of-the-art training and research facility that provides free and reduced-cost counseling to more than 450 families annually. The CFT program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY, FAMILY SCIENCE

Examine internal family processes and the dynamic interaction of families with the biological, psychological, social, political and economic aspects of their communities. Doctoral students develop a broad knowledge of family theory, research methodology, family programs and policy, ethnic minority families and contemporary challenges confronting families.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY, MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Get the training relevant to health problems and services for women, infants, children and adolescents. Students are trained in research, policy, and practice to improve the health, safety and well-being of these groups, with a particular emphasis on low income and ethnic minority populations. The program is unique in its focus on the whole family system and family health policy.

SPH AT A GLANCE

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<th>TOTAL STUDENT BODY:</th>
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55% STUDENTS OF COLOR

25+ DEGREES AND ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

164 FACULTY MEMBERS

48 STAFF

RESEARCH DOLLARS: $17 MILLION 2018

RANKED

Best Graduate Schools
U.S. News & World Report

For deadlines and application instructions, please visit sph.umd.edu/gradadmissions

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