BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

FAMILY SCIENCE

The Bachelor of Science degree program in Family Science focuses on the study of families and the challenges they face in contemporary society. The major offers excellent training in using scientific methods to understand family development, behavior, and how to address family problems.

Students learn to describe, analyze, and improve the quality of family life through education, applied research, policy analysis, and human services program management. The curriculum focuses on individual and family development over the life span, examining social, cultural, economic, health, and historical trends that affect family functioning. Students develop superior communication and problem solving skills, and are able to understand varied backgrounds and appreciate diversity.

After graduation, students use their knowledge to address family issues such as parenting, personal and family finance, family decision-making, adoption, child and domestic abuse, mental health, elder care, physical wellness, and family support.

WHAT OUR GRADUATES DO

Family Science graduates have the opportunity to pursue diverse jobs in health settings, government agencies, human resources, and education, in areas such as:

• Business/Human Resources
• Marriage and Family Therapy
• Human and Health Services
• Family Law/Divorce Mediation
• Military Family Programs
• Family Policy Analysis
• Child Life or Elder Care Specialists

Many of our graduates advance to graduate degree programs such as family science, marriage and family therapy, law, social work, human development, psychology, public health and medicine.
OUR DEPARTMENT
The Family Science department is committed to teaching excellence and is proud of the rich ethnic and gender diversity of its faculty, staff, and students. The department is a campus leader in promoting sensitivity to gender, class, religious, disability, and cultural issues. Diversity issues are a focus both inside and outside the classroom.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM
Courses: Family Science majors are required to take a wide range of classes. Among our popular classes is Couple Relationships, which covers contemporary dating trends in courtship and intimate relationships; Personal and Family Finance, where students learn about financial planning, taxes, insurance, and home purchasing; and Violence in Families, in which students learn about physical, psychological, and legal trends regarding violence in couples and families.

Research: Within the Family Science department, there are many opportunities for students to learn from and work with faculty on research projects. For example, the Center for Healthy Families, which serves individuals, couples, and families seeking therapy, has occasional opportunities for students to engage in qualitative and quantitative research. Students are encouraged to contact faculty members about current research assistant opportunities in their field of interest.

Honors Program: Students who desire a more advanced educational experience may complete an independent honors thesis and engage with faculty to learn family theories and processes on a deeper level.

Internships: Family Science students must complete an internship during the final year of the major. The internship symposium enables students to find out where they can gain invaluable work experiences. Internship sites have included:
- Greenbelt CARES
- A Wider Circle
- Maryland Department of Juvenile Services
- Operation Military Kids
- Children’s National Medical Center
- Cradle of Hope Adoption Agency

Student Engagement
Join the Maryland Council on Family Relations (MCFR) to engage with other undergraduate and graduate students in community service, professional development, policy analysis, and much more! Phi Upsilon Omicron (Phi U) is the Family Science honors society that recognizes students who excel in academics, community service, and leadership. Phi U offers monthly service projects.

ABOUT THE UMD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
The University of Maryland School of Public Health is a dynamic and growing school located at one of the nation’s top-ranked public research universities. While many schools of public health in the country are limited to graduate education, our large and diverse undergraduate student body provides energy and unique perspectives, and contributes to our initiatives and commitment to advance a better state of health in Maryland and beyond.

With over 2,000 students in more than 25 different degree and academic programs, our School of Public Health prepares students to tackle complex and emerging public health issues and make meaningful contributions to the health and welfare of individuals and society. Students use the tools of traditional public health disciplines, along with our unique expertise in the role physical activity and families to address major health issues.