

Family Studies and Human Development Ph.D. Program

The University of Arizona

The Family Studies and Human Development (FSHD) program in the Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences at the University of Arizona offers doctoral training with an interdisciplinary approach to the study of relationships and human development across the lifespan and in diverse contexts.

Program Highlights

- Students receive cutting-edge training in family science and human development, with an emphasis on developing research skills for conducting both basic and applied research. Graduate course work includes classes in theory, applications, and rigorous research methodology and statistics. Advanced statistics courses are regularly offered by the program.
- Students work closely with faculty mentors who are highly invested in student success to develop programs of research that are in line with the students' interests. Students become productive scholars who participate in active research labs and collaborations, regularly present at professional conferences, take on leadership roles locally and in professional organizations, and author papers in peer-reviewed journals.
- Students are prepared for successful careers in research, teaching, or other positions in academic, public, and private-sector settings.
- Students benefit from exposure to multiple perspectives and opportunities, including a focus across the department on conducting research that impacts individual, family and community well-being. Training includes opportunities for collaborative interdisciplinary research and community outreach. Students also have access to state of the art lab facilities.
- Students are financially supported with research and teaching positions. Students also have a strong record of earning nationally competitive fellowships (e.g., NSF).

The University Setting. The University of Arizona is the state's premier research university and is an internationally renowned university. We are located in Tucson, Arizona, a city surrounded by mountains in the high Sonoran desert. Tucson boasts distinctive southwestern culture and enjoys more than 300 days of sunshine a year. Tucson is the first city in the United States to be recognized as a UNESCO World City of Gastronomy.



Application Deadline:
December 15

[http://
cals.arizona.edu /fcs/
fshd/graduate](http://cals.arizona.edu/fcs/fshd/graduate)

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Faculty Research Areas

Faculty expertise in the Family Studies and Human Development program ranges from child and adolescent development to adult romantic and family relationships. The graduate program follows an apprenticeship model in which students work closely with a faculty mentor or team of faculty mentors to develop and build strong skills needed for a successful career.

Romantic and Family Relationships Across the Lifespan

Many faculty members in FSHD focus on the well-being and health of family members and romantic partners across the lifespan. Emphasis is on relationship processes, familial contexts and interpersonal dynamics as important factors contributing to overall health and well-being. Faculty members examine these relationships from multiple perspectives, i.e., individual development, relational development, dyadic and triadic experiences, and biopsychosocial processes.

Resilience and Health of Marginalized Populations

Several FSHD faculty members focus on the resilience and health of individuals and families from marginalized populations, with particular foci on Latino families, culture, economic disadvantage, and sexual and gender minority populations. Research projects in this area tend to focus on identifying individual, family, or contextual assets or processes that promote resilience and healthy development and relationships.

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Visit our website:
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Early Childhood and Adolescent Development

Many FSHD faculty members examine the influence of socio-cultural contexts (e.g., cultural, community, neighborhood, early care and school), fundamentals of positive youth development, familial relationships (e.g., parents or caregivers, siblings, extended family members) and peer relationships on early childhood and adolescent health and development.

Innovative Methods and Models for Studying Families and Development

The FSHD department includes multiple faculty members with expertise in innovative, applied research methods, qualitative methods, and advanced statistical approaches designed to solve practical problems and offer research-based solutions to critical questions (e.g., preventive intervention development and evaluation, participatory-based action research methods, multilevel modeling, structural equation modeling, dynamic systems modeling, daily diary methods, biological processes, and intersectional methodology).