

2021-2022
Human Development and Family Sciences
GRADUATE HANDBOOK

Table of Contents

WELCOME	3
SIGNIFICANT DATES	4
I. THE GRADUATE PROGRAMS	5
A. The Master of Arts Program	5
M.A. Academic Requirements	5
Plan of Study	7
Portfolio.....	7
Thesis Plan A.....	9
Non-Thesis Plan B.....	10
Oral Examination	10
B. The Doctor of Philosophy Program	11
Requirements of the Program	11
Areas of Research Specialization	12
Child and Adolescent Development.....	12
Adulthood, Aging, and Gerontology	12
Diversity and Culture.....	12
Couples, Parents, and Families.....	12
Health, Wellbeing, and Prevention.....	12
Course of Study	13
Independent Teaching of courses by graduate students.....	15
Student Portfolio.....	16
Comprehensive General Exam	19
Dissertation	20
Advising and Review Processes	22
Yearly Review of Doctoral Students	23
C. Articulation Policy: Admission from the M.A. to Ph.D. Program within HDFS	24
II: RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS	25
Grievance Procedure for Addressing Problems	27
III. DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST	30

**IV. FUNDING FOR GRADUATE EDUCATION: GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS,
FINANCIAL AID, AND STUDENT EMPLOYMENT IN HDFB33**

V. RESEARCH AND SERVICE CENTERS IN HDFB.....39

VI. THE FACULTY AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF 40

WELCOME!

Welcome to the Graduate School of the University of Connecticut, and to the Graduate Programs in Human Development and Family Sciences (HDFS). This Handbook is designed to provide you with basic information concerning what we have to offer, what you should expect of us, and what we expect of you. *It is in your interest to read it carefully and to consult with your Major Advisor or the Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies about any unclear points.* We encourage you to ask questions as they arise, so that you can avoid unnecessary complications.

This Handbook is not meant to displace or in any way void the Graduate School catalog. All University of Connecticut graduate students are held to the basic requirements and regulations of the Graduate School as designated in the catalog. Various programs adopt requirements that apply in addition to the overall Graduate School requirements, and this Handbook includes certain requirements that we have added.

In entering this program, you are joining a creative and innovative field. The career you make for yourself at the University of Connecticut and beyond will depend largely upon your own resourcefulness and initiative as you choose from the range of available options. Required courses in our program are oriented toward presenting you with a content overview, basic research skills, and a range of alternative academic and professional directions from which you can choose. After that, the range of options to practice and hone your skills will depend largely on your choice of directions. Our MA and PhD programs are small enough to be tailored to your personal needs and goals, yet large enough to provide considerable diversity and exposure to a variety of perspectives.

We look forward with excitement to our mutual association, and hope that both you and we may find it a challenging and rewarding experience.

Sincerely yours,

Eva Lefkowitz, Ph.D., Department Head, HDFS

Preston A. Britner, Ph.D., Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies, HDFS

SIGNIFICANT DATES 2021-2022

Academic Calendar

<http://registrar.uconn.edu/academic-calendar/>

I. THE GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Cohesiveness and Purpose

The key word for the graduate programs in Human Development and Family Sciences is context. All of the HDFS programs are concerned with human behavior and family patterns and processes as these are influenced by physical, social, cultural and historical factors. The foci of the program extends to how these different ecological or environmental factors influence the varied trajectories of individual and family development over time. This appreciation of real world contexts leads many HDFS professionals to view human development and family life through action- and change-oriented lenses.

Consequently, the graduate program within HDFS is designed to prepare professionals to become involved in investigations of individuals and families in various stages of development in ways that lead to change. Students will learn to effect change through prevention, public policy, program evaluation, or through research focused on developmental and family processes within physical, social, and cultural contexts.

Our graduate programs of study have been designed to encourage and support students' personal and professional growth and development. Our programs are predicated on the belief that intellectual curiosity is an intrinsic part of being a successful and contributing professional and that students must feel free to pursue their curiosities while engaged in our programs of study.

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL'S ACADEMIC REGULATIONS-DEGREES CONFERRAL

Conferral of Degrees Conferral Degree conferral requires that the student have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 for all courses listed on the final Plan of Study and that all requirements for the degree have been completed satisfactorily by the deadline specified in the Academic Calendar. Degrees are conferred three times each year in August, December, and May. However, the only graduate Commencement ceremony is held annually in May. Students who qualify for degree conferral receive their diplomas by mail, normally within three months following conferral. Application for the Degree Formal application for a degree to be conferred must be filed online by the degree candidate using the Student Administration System within the first four weeks of the student's final semester. This application may be withdrawn at any time by the applicant. Information and instructions can be found on the Office of the Registrar website under the section titled Graduation. If all required paperwork and submissions needed for conferral are not received by the Office of the Registrar at least two weeks prior to the intended conferral date, conferral is delayed to the next conferral period, even though all other degree requirements may have been completed on time.

THIS INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND IN THE GRADUATE CATALOG:

<https://gradcatalog.uconn.edu>

A. THE MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAMS

M.A. Academic Requirements

Students design their Plan of Study (POS) in conjunction with their advisory committee. In doing so, M.A. students are encouraged to:

1. Design and successfully complete a POS that is consistent with the Graduate School requirements for the thesis (Plan A) or non-thesis (Plan B) track. See below for more information on **MA Thesis** requirements. The POS is developed in consultation with the student's Major Advisor and advisory committee and is designed to meet the student's interests and goals as well as the Graduate School's requirements for the M.A. degree. Thus, the exact number of courses in a POS depends on each student's preparation and specific area of study. See additional information below on **Plan of Study**.
2. Include the following courses on their POS - **HDFS 5001: Proseminar in Human Development and Family Sciences, HDFS 5003: Research Methods in Human Development and Family Sciences I, and HDFS 5215: Models and Concepts of Lifespan Human Development, and HDFS 5310: Patterns and Dynamics of Family Interaction**. These courses should be taken as early as possible in the academic program because of their foundational content. **HDFS 5005: Qualitative Methods; EPSY 5605: Quantitative Methods in Research I**; one human development course (choose from HDFS 5101 Infant and Toddler Development, HDFS 5102 Early and Middle Childhood Development, HDFS 5103 Adolescent Development, or one of several adult development courses).
3. Complete additional HDFS courses in their area of specialization* and,
4. Organize a practicum experience in collaboration with a research project or service agency and their Major Advisor or an appropriate other faculty; enroll in Research Practicum (HDFS 5030) or Supervised Fieldwork in Family Development (HDFS 5088) A minimum of 100 hours will satisfy this requirement, but students may elect to pursue more extensive experiences to promote their professional competencies.
5. Students must maintain a "B" average (3.0 GPA) throughout their course of study. All students must pass a "final" oral examination. See additional information below under **Oral Examination**.
6. Complete additional requirements of the Master's Degree Portfolio (see below) deemed essential by their advisory committee.

The student's Major Advisor and the HDFS Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies can offer students guidance in the form of suggested "MA Tracks" that detail course sequences and options in several of the areas of specialization.

The Graduate School requires a minimum of 30 credits for a master's program. Some programs may require more than 30-credits. The typical number of credits in the M.A. program in HDFS is about 30-45 course credits including nine thesis credits (for Plan A degrees) and 3-6 practicum credits.

A master's degree must be completed within six years according to Graduate School regulations. However, the overall time for completion of a master's degree is expected to range from 1½ to 3 years. For full-time students, this is likely to include two years of full-time graduate study and may also include contiguous summers.

A one-time extension of the student's terminal date of no longer than two (2) years is considered only when there is substantial evidence that the student has made regular and consistent progress toward completion of degree requirements. A detailed recommendation to extend the terminal date must be signed by the major advisor and submitted in a timely manner to the Dean of The Graduate School.

Additional Information Concerning the M.A. Degree

Faculty Advisory Committee

A faculty advisory committee should be formed *before* the end of the student's first full-time year in the M.A. program, and as early as reasonable according to the student's plans and goals. According to the policies established by the Graduate School, this committee must consist of *at least* three members: a major advisor and two associate advisors. The Major Advisor and one of the associate advisors must be HDFS faculty, and two of the three must be appointed to the Graduate Faculty (which includes most but not all members of the HDFS faculty). The Major Advisor is automatically the chair of this committee. More detail on the faculty advisory committee, the relationship with the Major Advisor, and other advising issues is given later in the Handbook.

Plan of Study

The Graduate School requires that students submit an approved Plan of Study (POS) to the Graduate Records Office when they have completed approximately half of their expected course work. Practically, this means that the POS should be submitted near the completion of the second semester of the first year of full-time graduate study. Please note that courses listed on the master's POS may not appear on the Ph.D. POS. To be able to file a POS a student must have a Major Advisor and a full advisory committee. Once completed, changes to the POS require the submission of a "revision to the plan of study form" that must be approved by the student's advisory committee. The Plan of Study forms (Plan A [with thesis] and Plan B [non-thesis]) are available on-line at (<http://www.grad.uconn.edu/forms.html>) .

Portfolio

A Terminal Master's Degree Portfolio includes nine benchmarks that should be completed before graduation.

	Benchmark	Evaluation Criteria
1	Curriculum Vitae	
2	Approved and completed M.A. Plan of Study in one or more areas of specialization. Incorporate signed POS form.	Approved by Advisory Committee; submitted to HDFS Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies and the Graduate School.
3	Core courses. Courses should incorporate readings essential to the student's program of study.	Informal Transcript. Instructor grade.
4	Completion of <i>Professional Proseminar</i> and <i>Professional Development Modules</i> on research ethics, standards, and procedures.	Grade in Proseminar, evidence of completion of required training.

5	<p>Plan A - M.A. thesis in HDFS specialization area; Plan B - final project or professional writing sample:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Book chapter, journal manuscript, technical report - A program evaluation or portion of an evaluation - Literature review - Qualitative/Quantitative/Mixed Methods study - Policy Analysis - Case study – based on practicum experience – includes evaluative elements 	<p>Approval by committee and oral defense to department. Signed paperwork (Report on the Final Examination for the Master's Degree) submitted to HDFS Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies and the Graduate School.</p>
6	<p>Leadership and/or Citizenship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Membership in a professional society beginning the first year in the program <p>And at least one of the following (or other activities as designated by the committee):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conference attendance - Membership on professional or service organization boards - Reviewing proposals for presentations or publications - Service on departmental, university, outreach, or professional organizations committees - Volunteer work at local, state, or national conferences - Appointment or election for committee involvement in local, state or national organization - Attendance in Department colloquia 	<p>Evidence of membership in national organization(s) and participation in activities at departmental, local, state, regional, and national levels.</p>
7	<p>Teaching and/or Public Engagement</p> <p>Document at least two of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two guest lectures in undergraduate or graduate level courses - Involvement in a series of 2 or more presentations/trainings for local service agency - Involvement in research evaluation for a specific program, including creation of an evaluation report - Involvement in production of a significant document (review, report, or publication) reflecting public engagement/engaged scholarship 	<p>Supporting documentation in the form of letters, publications, or technical reports</p>
8	<p>Documentation of completion of 100 hrs of supervised practicum experience in a community or State agency, hospital research unit, or other practicum site approved by the advisor or ADHG (preferably during academic year*).</p>	<p>Signed practicum contract by faculty and community supervisor describing negotiated hours, activities. Feedback from community supervisor on quality of work.</p>

9	One presentation/poster at state, regional, national, or international conferences, as primary presenter or as part of a research team. Posters/presentations scheduled to be presented during the student's UConn graduate career are acceptable.	Power Points slides/posters, papers, or other formats of presentation. If student is 3 rd + author, then she/he should complete and include checklist form explaining role(s).
* Students and faculty should understand that the University extends liability to graduate students on internship/training during Fall and Spring semesters, but not during summer.		

Master's Thesis: Plan A

As noted above, all M.A. students are required to write a thesis, thesis equivalent, or project approved by the committee. If a student wishes to register a Master's Thesis with the Graduate School and have a Master's Thesis recorded on their official University of Connecticut transcript, the student must register for nine credits of GRAD 5950: Master's Thesis Preparation. It should be noted that M. A. students desiring to continue for a Ph.D., here or at another university are advised to register a thesis. There are many types of appropriate theses. Options for completing a thesis or thesis equivalent include:

1. Original Research Project

In this option, the most traditional type of M.A. thesis, students design a study in which they collect data, and write a thesis entirely on their own data. This should be done in close collaboration with one's advisor, so that the process does not overwhelm the student. A wide range of topics and approaches are satisfactory to the Department, dependent on agreement by one's advisory committee. These include quantitative and qualitative studies or policy analysis, etc.

2. Replication

In some instances, a thesis can take the form of a replication of a previously conducted study. Re-doing a study with additional controls or a younger or older age sample are examples of how a replication can serve as an M.A. thesis.

3. Secondary Data Analysis

Today more so than ever before in the history of the field, there are national data sets available that can be used for research purposes. There are faculty in the department who are able to help students access and use these archived data bases. Students are able to use these resources for their M.A. theses involving topics such as poverty and child development, women's employment and parenting roles, parent-child relations, and health and mental health issues among cancer survivors and in members of minority families. Alternately, several faculty members have interview and other data sets available that have not yet been analyzed. The use of these materials is an appropriate route for an M.A. thesis and benefits all concerned.

4. Ongoing Research

Another route used for completing the thesis requirement is through involvement with faculty or doctoral research that is being planned or is underway. M.A. students might collaborate on or extend these ongoing projects in ways that are mutually beneficial to all involved.

5. Jointly Conducted Investigation Across Graduate Students

On a few occasions in the past graduate studies have jointly conceived and conducted a research project that served as a basis for their respective M.A. theses. In this case, the students might share in the design

and execution of the study, but focus on different research questions or aspects of the study for their respective theses. Put another way, a joint project can benefit students when there is mutual help and productive sharing of data. The separate M.A. theses report the common elements but analyze and interpret different aspects of the study.

6. Completion of the Certificate in Program Evaluation through the Department of Educational Psychology

The required project for the Certificate in Program Evaluation through the Department of Educational Psychology may satisfy the M.A. thesis requirement in HDFS contingent on the approval of the advisory committee. The thesis must conform to the guidelines for preparing the thesis, scheduling the defense, and necessary steps for submitting posted by the Graduate School. Details for the Certificate in Program Evaluation can be found on the Ed Psych website: (<https://rmme.education.uconn.edu>). [Note: There is also a separate online certificate program (<https://progeval.uconn.edu>).]

The Graduate School website (www.grad.uconn.edu/masters.html) provides guidelines for the preparation of the thesis, scheduling the defense, and necessary steps for submitting the thesis

Master's Non-Thesis: Plan B

The Plan B track allows students to undertake a capstone project that will be presented in their MA oral examination. This project takes different forms in different areas of specialization. For example, students specializing in Marriage and Family Therapy prepare a Theory of Change paper that is presented in their final semester; students in Prevention and Early Intervention, Gerontology, or Health and Well-Being may undertake an evaluation of a program or service as part of their practicum experience. For students interested in applying for admission to our doctoral program, a suitable substitute for a MA thesis may be a thesis equivalent paper, which is a published or under review research article to which the graduate student has made substantive contributions as attested to by their co-authors and/or agreed upon by their faculty advisor. Students electing the Certificate in Program Evaluation may use their evaluation project as a MA thesis equivalent if approved by the student's advisory committee.

Oral Examination

All students within the M.A. program are required to complete an oral examination. The oral examination is seen as providing closure on the M.A. program experience. It is an educational experience that provides students with an opportunity to demonstrate their competence within their area of specialization within a professional setting.

The oral examination will be scheduled late in the student's program. If the student has written a thesis, the oral exam will be a presentation of that thesis. If a student chooses to not register a thesis with the Graduate School, his or her oral presentation will concern the thesis equivalent project. The student's advisory committee will determine the scheduling, format, and focus of the oral exam.

Prior to taking the oral examination, the student must prepare The Report on the Final Examination for the Master's Degree form for the signatures of his/her Major Advisor and members of the advisory committee. The form is available at www.grad.uconn.edu/forms.html. For the protection of the student's interests, we recommend that three original copies are signed. Immediately following the examination, the student must submit one original to the Graduate School and provide the HDFS Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies with one of the three copies, which will be placed in the student's file in the HDFS graduate office. The student should retain a signed original for their personal records.

B. THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY PROGRAM

The Human Development and Family Sciences (HDFS) program is one of a limited number of programs in the U.S. that offers a Ph.D. in HDFS. Ph.D. students will develop an area of specialization in conjunction with their Major Advisor and the members of their advisory committee. The research conducted by doctoral students in the Department is expected to be original, of high quality, and to extend the existing research within the HDFS field.

Admission to the Ph.D. Program

Students are admitted into the Ph.D. program based on clear evidence of their scholarly potential. Admittance may be attained via one of three routes:

1. The traditional route is one in which the applicant has completed a master's degree with a research thesis within HDFS or within a related field of study.
2. It is possible, as well, for an applicant who has completed a master's program in HDFS or a related field without having conducted a thesis to be admitted to the doctoral program if they can present evidence of their scholarly potential in the form of work that the HDFS Admissions Committee considers the equivalent of a research thesis. An example of work that might serve as the equivalent of a research thesis is (co-) authorship of a published article with letters from mentors attesting to the quality of the applicant's contribution to the work. Students admitted to study for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy may earn a Master's degree in HDFS under either Plan A or Plan B of the Graduate School.
3. Students may be admitted with no post-baccalaureate training (i.e., directly from a bachelor's degree) if they show substantial scholarly potential in the form of work that the HDFS Admissions Committee considers the equivalent of a research thesis. Examples of work that might demonstrate this potential include evidence of high-level research-focused courses, letters from faculty with whom the student did undergraduate research, an undergraduate Honors thesis that was research-based, employment as a research assistant involved in multiple aspects of significant research investigations that resulted in (co-) authorship of a published article with letters from mentors attesting to the quality of the applicant's contribution to the work. Students admitted to study for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy may earn a Master's degree in HDFS under either Plan A or Plan B of the Graduate School (i.e., the student is required to complete a master's thesis or thesis equivalent as a step in his or her Ph.D. program).

Regardless of route, the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required as part of the application process. In rare instances, an applicant may request a waiver of the GRE; such requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. A formal written request for waiver with a detailed explanation of the reason for the request must accompany the application for admission.

Requirements of the Program

The Graduate Faculty of HDFS approved the following curriculum for all Ph.D. students matriculating in Fall of 2020 and thereafter. A student may request a waiver of required core courses if she/he has completed similar course work. However, the waiver must be discussed with and approved by the student's Major Advisor *and* the Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies. In some cases, the student will be asked to discuss his or her background and qualifications with the instructor of a specific course to allow that faculty person to have input into the decision as to whether or not to waive the requirement.

Please Note: *The student should always consult the current University of Connecticut Graduate Catalog for detailed descriptions of general requirements for the Ph.D. degree.*

The Ph.D. Degree in Human Development and Family Sciences Curriculum

Areas of Research Specialization

The Ph.D. in HDFS needs to be viewed from multiple perspectives. First and foremost, the field of study of the degree is human development and family sciences. This means it includes examination of theory, research, and intervention/practice and their interplay across the full lifespan of individual development and within the context of family and social systems. It also includes an appreciation for, and exploration of, the diverse ways in which persons develop within their social and familial contexts. Thus, it includes a core curriculum designed to provide all students with that foundation.

All students' programs of study within the graduate program involve an emphasis on:

- Lifespan Human Development (in ecological context)
- Diversity & Culture
- Promoting Healthy Individuals and Families (prevention, intervention, and policy)
- Basic and Applied Research

Second, all doctoral students will develop an "area of specialization" that will be reflected in their plan of study and serve as the basis for their doctoral research. For most students, this area of specialization will be within one of six well-developed areas of faculty research within the Department. All include a focus on how human development and family relations are inextricably linked. These areas are:

1. Child and Adolescent Development
 - Development during infancy, early childhood, middle childhood, adolescence, and the transition to adulthood in the context of a range of social settings, including families, peers, schools, and culture.
2. Adulthood, Aging, and Gerontology
 - The health and wellbeing of adults, older adults, families, caregivers, and communities.
3. Diversity and Culture
 - The quality of life for individuals of diverse social, cultural, and racial/ethnic backgrounds within and outside of the United States; gender and sexual identities; and disabilities/abilities.
4. Couples, Parents, and Families
 - Relationships across the lifespan, including dating, marriage, and families of heterosexual and LGBTQ couples, in many social contexts including culture, socioeconomic status, and family structure.
5. Health, Wellbeing, and Prevention
 - The processes that promote health and wellbeing, and how to prevent negative outcomes at the individual, familial, community, and societal levels so as to develop prevention and intervention policies and practices.

The HDFS faculty is committed to providing opportunities for advanced study that are both responsive to the individual needs and goals of students chosen for HDFS matriculation and consonant with the goals and expertise of the faculty. Students and their advisors have considerable latitude in defining an area of specialization. Most individual students are likely to elect to have one of these areas of specialization. However, some students may prefer to use a broader definition of their program, based on a thematic approach to their studies that may span several of these areas. Unique configurations may be developed and pursued as long as the student ascertains that there are sufficient faculty and resources available to work with the student in her or his specialization area. Students typically complete 21-24 credits in their chosen specialization area.

Students should select courses that reflect a combination of the core HDFS graduate curriculum for all students, regular courses available in their area of specialization from throughout the University, and special courses, such as Special Topics (HDFS 5000), Research Practicum (HDFS 5030), Practicum in Teaching (HDFS 5010), and other practicum and internship experiences related to policy, and practice. Although a student need not choose a specialization, those who do so will have a clearer direction for advising.

Through a process of discussion, reflection and negotiation with their Major Advisor and advisory committee, a student will develop a doctoral Plan of Study (POS) that reflects the structure of our Human Development and Family Sciences program. The POS will include:

- Required Core Courses;
- Methodology Courses;
- Area of Specialization or Thematic Courses;
- Practicum Experiences and/or Apprenticeships; and

15 Graduate Dissertation credits (GRAD # 6950). The graduate school maintains that there is a cap of 9 credits of GRAD 6950 per semester.

It should be noted that the Graduate School requires that an approved *Plan of Study for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy* be on file in the Graduate Records Office approximately when half of the expected course work has been completed. Practically, this means that the POS should be submitted in the second year of course work – though students can submit their POS later than their second year within the program. The student should plan on completing and submitting a POS as soon as the course work that has been taken and will be taken is clear. Please note that courses listed on the master's POS may not appear on the Ph.D. POS. The POS form is available at <https://grad.uconn.edu/forms/>

Course of Study

The goal of course work is to provide each student with the prerequisite knowledge, skills, and abilities to be a contributing professional working in the area of human development and family sciences. Overall, the intent of course selection is to enable the student to understand the dynamic interplay between human development and family systems from a lifespan perspective. In addition, recommended coursework focused on the areas of statistics and research methods is designed to prepare students to conduct high quality research.

Typically, such course work comprises approximately 50-60 course credits (post-M.A. with thesis) or 80 – 85 credits (post baccalaureate or master's without a Master's thesis) including an appropriate combination of courses oriented towards human development, family dynamics, family systems, prevention, intervention, and policy. Practicum, apprenticeship, and internship activities are also components of the Ph.D. program in HDFS.

Although certain minimum requirements are set by The Graduate School, it is important for students to realize that work toward this degree is not merely a matter of accumulating course credits or of satisfying other requirements. The degree will be conferred only after the advisory committee and the Graduate Faculty are convinced that the student has developed independence of judgment and mature scholarship in the chosen field. The student consults, in the early stages, with her or his assigned Major Advisor and, later, with a chosen Major Advisor and committee to develop a comprehensive POS. For the Ph.D., UConn requires: 50 credits at UConn (including 15 credits of GRAD 6950) for those entering with an MA/MS; or 80 credits at UConn (including 15 credits of GRAD 6950) for those entering with a BA/BS.

All work must be completed within a period of eight (8) years of the beginning of the student's matriculation in the Ph.D. program. Failure to complete the work within the periods specified or failure to maintain Continuous Registration (See "Continuous Registration.") will require reevaluation of the student's entire program and may result in a notice of termination. A one-time extension of the student's terminal date of no longer than two (2) years is considered only when there is substantial evidence that the student has made regular and consistent progress toward completion of degree requirements. A detailed recommendation to extend the terminal date must be signed by the major advisor and submitted in a timely manner to the Dean of the Graduate School.

REQUIRED CORE COURSES for all Ph.D. students in HDFS * - 22 credits

HDFS 5001	Proseminar (1-credit HDFS orientation course for new students)
HDFS 5002	Professional Development
HDFS 5215	Models and Concepts of Lifespan Human Development
HDFS 5310	Patterns and Dynamics of Family Interaction
HDFS 5311	Theories of Family Development
HDFS 5312	Diverse Families
HDFS 5340	Prevention, Intervention, and Policy Approaches in Family Sciences
X	One additional developmental course in HDFS

METHODOLOGY COURSES * - 15 credits

HDFS 5003	Research Methods in Human Development and Family Relations I
HDFS 5004	Research Methods in Human Development and Family Relations II
HDFS 5005	Qualitative Research Methods in HDFS
X	Two additional courses in qualitative, quantitative, and/or mixed methods, as approved by the student's advisory committee

AREA OF SPECIALIZATION OR THEMATIC PROGRAM ADVANCED COURSES *- 9 credits

Using the current research specialization topics (See Areas of Specialization section, pp 12 –15), students and their advisory committees will select an appropriate mix of basic and advanced courses, independent study, practicum, and research activities to develop a high level of expertise in a selected area of study.

PRACTICUM EXPERIENCES/APPRENTICESHIPS * – No credits required

This includes some combination of teaching, applied research/policy, service/outreach, and basic research apprenticeships as appropriate for the student's plan of study.

GUIDELINES FOR INDEPENDENT TEACHING BY A GRADUATE STUDENT

Opportunities may be available at the Storrs and regional campuses for Doctoral students to teach undergraduate HDFS courses independently a Principal Instructor Teaching Assistant (PITA). To be eligible for consideration as a course instructor, graduate students must have taken GRAD 6001 (Introduction to College Instruction and HDFS 5010 (Practicum in University Teaching of Human Development and Family Sciences). The teaching practicum must be taken with a regular faculty member (adjunct faculty or graduate students are not eligible to serve as teaching practicum mentors), and whenever possible, the preference is for the practicum to be in the same course that the graduate student plans to teach.

To help us make decisions about assignments, students desiring to teach will need to submit a proposal request that includes relevant graduate courses taken, teaching assistantships/practica, related research, or/and work experience. We believe this process is also relevant for your professional development as it is similar to writing cover letters and research/teaching statements when applying to professional positions (faculty, postdoctoral, research). Two semesters before a student would like to teach, they must send an email request to both the Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies and the Associate Department Head for Undergraduate Studies (cc/ major advisor). This request must include the following information: Semester GRAD 6001 and HDFS 5010 were taken, semester(s) during which the student would be willing to teach, and the course(s) interested in teaching. A request to teach does not guarantee that a student will be assigned a class. Decisions regarding teaching assignments for each semester are based upon departmental needs, availability of funds and the fit between students' qualifications and the course(s) that need an instructor. Although effort is made to provide interested students with the chance to serve as an instructor to gain teaching experience, actual opportunities may be limited by department circumstances. Students will be chosen for solo instruction on the basis of. Final decisions regarding teaching assignments are made by the Department Head after consultation with the Associate Department Heads.

November 15th – due date for subsequent Fall semester teaching requests

April 15th – due date for subsequent Spring semester teaching requests

Student Portfolio

Ph.D. students will complete a student portfolio. All of the benchmarks and criteria apply to Ph.D. students who matriculate with a B.A./B.S. degree; some apply to students who matriculate with a non-thesis M.A./M.S. degree; and others apply to students who matriculate with a thesis M.A./M.S. degree and to thesis M.A. students. The number of presentations/posters, manuscripts, etc., indicated are minimal requirements for satisfactory progress or completion of the Student Portfolio and requirements for the degree. Regular presentation of products, such as presentations and posters, in departmental venues such as research seminars, colloquia, etc., will be expected but not explicitly required.

Many of the items in the Portfolio will be part of a publicly-available package for each student, but selected items, such as evaluations and grades, will not be part of that publicly-available Portfolio. However, they will be included in the student's file and used in the Annual Review process. Timely progress in fulfilling these benchmarks will be evaluated during the Annual Review, and students will be given appropriate feedback and guidance.

Benchmarks and Evaluation Criteria

#	Benchmark	Evaluation Criteria
1	Core courses and examinations. Courses should incorporate "essential" readings.	Instructor grade
2	Approved and completed M.A. Plan of Study.	Approved by Advisory Committee; submitted to HDFS Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies and the Graduate School.
3	Completion of <i>Professional Proseminar</i> and <i>Professional Development Modules</i> on research ethics, standards, and procedures.	Grade in Proseminar, evidence of completion of required training.
4	M.A. thesis for students who enter Ph.D. program without a Master's Thesis or its equivalent (i.e., published or in press research article in peer-reviewed journal) in HDFS or related area.	Approval by committee and oral defense to department. Paperwork submitted to HDFS Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies and the Graduate School.
5	Student membership in appropriate national organization(s) required. Participation in departmental, state, regional, national, or international organizational activities strongly encouraged throughout graduate career.	Evidence of membership in national organization(s) and participation in activities at departmental, local, state, regional, and national levels.

6	Three presentations/posters at state, regional, national, or international conferences, as primary presenter or as part of a research team. Can include one presentation/poster presented prior to entering the program but at least two must be submitted while at UConn and presented (or scheduled to be presented) during the student's UConn graduate career. Those can occur at any point throughout graduate career. One of the presentations <i>may</i> be completed after submission of the Preliminary Portfolio and completion of the Literature Review.	Power Points slides/posters, papers, or other formats of presentation. If student is 3 rd + author, then she/he should complete and include checklist form explaining role(s).
7	Authorship of two manuscripts <i>published, in press, or submitted</i> to peer-reviewed journals or as chapters for edited volumes. Can include one article submitted prior to matriculation. <i>At least one</i> manuscript must be completed and submitted at any point throughout the student's graduate career in the HDFS Ph.D. program. One of the manuscripts <i>may</i> be completed after submission of the Preliminary Portfolio and completion of the Literature Review.	Manuscripts and editorial reviews, if available, of article submitted to a peer-reviewed journal or book editor. If student is 3 rd + author, then she/he should complete and include checklist form explaining role(s).
8	Approved Ph.D. Plan of Study.	Approved by Advisory Committee. Submitted to HDFS Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies and the Graduate School.
9	Preliminary Portfolio	Preliminary Portfolio, including current CV and materials indicated in evaluation criteria for items 1-8, submitted to and approved by Advisory Committee. Submitted to HDFS Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies.

10	<p>Comprehensive/General Exam/Literature Review: a comprehensive, critical review of the literature in a substantive area of the student's scholarly area of interest. Topic of literature review to be determined by the student's advisory committee. Literature Reviews must demonstrate the student's command of the literature and the ability to synthesize and explain the theoretical, conceptual, and empirical knowledge on the chosen topic. This paper is to be completed independently by the student.</p>	<p>Cannot be submitted before approval of Preliminary Portfolio. Evaluated by the Advisory Committee plus two additional department faculty designated for this purpose by the HDFFS Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies. If all reviews indicate a pass, then the exam is complete. In the event that one or more reviews call for a fail, then detailed assessments of the paper by all reviewers are submitted to the ADH for GS, who has the discretion to pass the exam (if all advising committee members and one of the additional reviewers have rated the paper a pass, and the ADH for GS is in agreement) or call a meeting of the advising committee, two additional reviewers, and the ADH for GS in order to confer and seek consensus about a decision of pass or fail. A decision to pass must be approved unanimously by the advising committee. If not passed (i.e., decision is fail), the student will have one (and only one) opportunity to rewrite the Literature Review based on the detailed feedback provided by all reviewers. Upon approval, the ADH for GS will report to the Graduate School as successful completion of the comprehensive/general exam.</p>
<p>Remaining Benchmarks (and Portions of Those above as Indicated) Will be Completed after Completion of Preliminary Portfolio, Submission Of Comprehensive/General Examination and Notification by the Graduate School of Ph.D. Candidacy</p>		
11	<p>Dissertation Proposal.</p>	<p>Proposal approved by Advisory Committee and reviewed/evaluated by at least two members of the faculty in addition to Advisory Committee. Following a review of the written dissertation proposal by the student's advisory committee, the dissertation proposal will be presented orally to department faculty (minimum of two additional faculty, beyond the advisory committee) and then revised in accordance with discussion at defense and discretion of the Advisory Committee. Dissertation proposal with signed approval page by Advisory Committee, noting additional faculty who participated in the oral defense, submitted to HDFFS Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies and transmission to the Graduate School</p>
12	<p>Teaching experience, including as solo instructor, OR internship in research/teaching/clinical service settings.</p>	<p>Concomitant enrollment in appropriate supervisory course, including evaluation by supervisor. Syllabi and evidence of approach/philosophy for teaching.</p>

13	Complete, Final Portfolio.	Portfolio, including current CV and all materials relevant to items 1-12 (e.g., the Preliminary Portfolio materials plus the Literature Review, Dissertation proposal, and evidence of teaching/research/clinical service), submitted to and approved by Advisory Committee. Submitted to HDFS Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies.
14	Dissertation.	Approval by student's Advisory Committee; Presentation to audience, including at least five faculty members as required by the Graduate School. Submitted to the Graduate School by major advisor and student.

Lasted revised 8/21/2011

Comprehensive/General Exam

The Comprehensive/General exam approved by the Graduate Faculty consists of a comprehensive, critical literature review of the literature in a substantive area of the student's scholarly area of interest. Topic of literature review to be determined by the student's advisory committee. Literature Reviews must demonstrate student's command of the literature and the ability to synthesize and explain the theoretical, conceptual, and empirical knowledge on the chosen topic. This paper is to be completed independently by the student.

The Comprehensive/General Exam will be evaluated by the Advisory Committee plus at least two additional faculty designated for this purpose by the Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies (See Guidance for Faculty Review of General Exam – Appendix B). The exam cannot be submitted for review before approval of the Preliminary Portfolio. The exam must be approved by at least four of five reviewers. If not passed, a student will have one opportunity to rewrite the Comprehensive/General Exam based on comments by reviewers. The resulting reviews will be reported to the Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies for transmission to Graduate School as completion of Comprehensive/General exam. See Benchmarks Table for procedures to resolve mixed reviews of the Comprehensive/General Exam.

Comprehensive Exam Process:

The exam process can begin when the student has completed course work for the “approved” plan of study. The completed exam cannot be submitted before approval of the Preliminary Portfolio.

First, the advising committee develops a question(s) based on the students' research interest. The committee presents the formal question(s) and instructions to the student including the length of the exam and time to completion. The Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies (ADHGS) should be included in the email. Length of exams generally varies from 25-40 pages and time to completion varies from 30-90 days, depending on the committee. It is also advisable to send students the Comprehensive Exam Review Guidance form used to evaluate exams.

Next, completed exams are submitted to the advising committee. A PDF copy is also sent to the ADHGS, blinded if the student wishes blind review, and including a copy of the exam questions/instructions. The ADHGS asks two non-committee HDFS faculty to review the exam

within 4-6 weeks; their identities remain confidential. Exams are evaluated according to criteria in the Comprehensive Exam Review Guidance form- which includes details for the pass/revise & resubmit/fail decision.

Reviewing faculty, including committee members, submit evaluations directly to the Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies who notifies both the student and the advising committee of the final decision. Comments from external reviewers (identities remain confidential) are also sent to the student and the major advisor to be shared with the advising committee.

Lastly, the student completes the **REPORT ON THE GENERAL EXAMINATION FOR THE DOCTORAL DEGREE form** to be submitted to the Graduate School. The ADHGS must include the names of all five faculty reviewers. The Graduate Coordinator transmits the form to the Graduate School.

Dissertation

Planning Process

After successfully completing the Comprehensive/General Exam, the student will construct his or her dissertation research project and proposal. The dissertation project should provide a significant and unique understanding of an appropriate topic in HDFS and upon its completion should make a significant contribution to the field. In the process of designing and conducting the research project, the student will become one of the world's experts on that particular topic. To that end, the planning process requires the student to develop a depth of understanding of the literature in the area of specialization concerning the topic of interest and a proven ability to use appropriate methods to explore the topic and analyze resulting data in a professional way.

The planning process as well as the dissertation research itself will take a significant portion of the student's time and effort in the Ph.D. program. Towards that end, any students matriculating beginning in Fall 1998, or later, are to take at least 15 credits of dissertation preparation (GRAD 6950) (The graduate school maintains that there is a cap of 9 credits of GRAD 6950 per semester. Timing of these credits will be worked out with the Major Advisor and the advisory committee. Typically, the time necessary to complete the dissertation will be at least one year of essentially full-time commitment.

Dissertation Proposal

After successfully completing the Comprehensive/General Exam/Literature Review, doctoral students must submit a Dissertation Proposal for approval by their advisory committee. The proposal is to be typed and double spaced, and it should be prepared with care and attention to style required for scholarly writing and publication. It should specify Background, Purpose for the Research, Research Question, Methods and Procedures, Analytic Procedures, Significance, and Limitations. It should be approximately 20 double-spaced pages in length of text, maximum of 25. Please note that the Graduate School form indicates that ten pages should be sufficient to provide adequate detail, but in our experience a well-constructed proposal will require more than ten pages of text. However, the general emphasis on being concise is indeed important. For example, the literature review should not contain the kind of detail expected in the dissertation but, instead, should provide essential information to enable reviewers to understand the goals and procedures of the proposed research.

Each student's advisory committee oversees the construction of dissertation proposal. When the advisory committee approves the proposal, each committee member must sign the Dissertation Proposal for the Ph.D.

Degree approval page. The Graduate School provides detailed instructions for procedures as well as forms at <https://grad.uconn.edu/forms/>

Oral Defense of the Dissertation Proposal

Following preliminary approval of the written proposal by the Advisory Committee, the student will undertake an announced oral defense to the Department faculty (minimum of two faculty outside of the Advisory Committee). Revisions may be suggested during the Oral Defense and the student will complete as required by the Advisory Committee. Successful completion of the dissertation proposal will be acknowledged by the Advisory Committee by signing the Dissertation Proposal for the Ph.D. Degree form. The Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies will sign the original forms. One copy of the dissertation and original signature page are required to be held in the Department and one must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar.

Upon submission to the Registrar, a *pro forma* consideration and approval process will be conducted by the Executive Committee of that group, at which point the student will be allowed to deposit the dissertation upon its completion. *Please note that at the latest, the dissertation proposal final approval should be at least six months before the expected date of degree completion.*

Dissertation Research

Subsequently, the student and their advisory committee are responsible for completion of the dissertation in the form and manner proposed. Of course, relatively minor changes to the project may be made as the study or studies proceed. However, if the dissertation is altered dramatically, the student *must* resubmit the new dissertation version to the Graduate Faculty of the HDFS and the Graduate Council of the Graduate School for reconsideration.

Oral Defense of the Dissertation

The final stage of the dissertation process, doctoral candidates are required to participate in an “oral defense” of their study. The defense occurs after the advisory committee has approved the dissertation as complete. The *Graduate Catalog* and Graduate School Records Office *must* be consulted to make certain that all formatting, announcements, and schedule requirements of the Graduate School are complied with fully.

Please Note: *A listing of resource materials designed to facilitate the successful completion of a dissertation is presented in Appendix C.*

Advising and Review Process

Advising and Advisory Committee (see also Section II on Rights, Responsibilities and Expectations)

A critical element influencing progress and satisfaction with the graduate program is advising. The most important person in that regard is one's Major Advisor. When a student is admitted to the Ph.D. Program she or he is assigned a Major Advisor. The Graduate Admissions Committee (GAC), working with appropriate members of the faculty, assigns a Major Advisor on the basis of the apparent best combination of student and faculty interests and faculty advising loads. This preliminary Major Advisor provides consultation for initial course choices. However, as soon as possible in a Ph.D. student's career—and not later than completing a year of full-time course work or its equivalent in part-time work—the student should select a permanent Major Advisor and in tandem form an advisory committee. This selection may be an affirmation of the assigned Major Advisor *or* it may be a different faculty member who is a better fit for the completion of the student's graduate career in HDFS.

The Major Advisor serves many important roles. The advisor:

1. Advises on class content, initially solely and later in conjunction with the student's advisory committee;
2. Recommends appropriate members for the advisory committee;
3. Chairs the thesis or dissertation committee;
4. Provides the student with opportunity for professional exposure and advancement (informing about appropriate organizations, workshops, providing opportunities for co-presentations, etc.);
5. Works with the student to insure appropriate progress and satisfactory completion of all requirements;
6. Reports to the Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies and the entire Graduate Faculty about the student's progress; and
7. Fulfills the goal of providing each student with a high-quality education that is the foundation for professional advancement and satisfaction.

A successful relationship with a Major Advisor requires that a student must have reasonable expectations for what can and cannot be done by the advisor. Information about resolving potential conflicts in this relationship is provided under "Advising and Conflicts" in Section II.

The second step after forming a relationship with a Major Advisor is selected is to complete the Advisory Committee with at least two other members of the Graduate Faculty. According to the Graduate School requirements, the advisory committee must consist of *at least* three members of the Graduate Faculty (which includes most but not all faculty), at least two of whom must be in Human Development and Family Sciences. The Major Advisor is automatically the chair of this committee and oversees the general examination and dissertation process. Exact composition of this critical committee depends on the individual student's interests and needs. The advisory committee will be responsible for:

1. Reviewing and approving the POS, which is a list of all course work applied to the Ph.D.;
2. Participating in the development and subsequent evaluation of the publishable review of related literature or grant proposal component of the General Exam;
3. Working with the student in all stages of the dissertation project from preparation of the proposal, to writing, to oral presentation;
4. Working in close collaboration with the student on Institutional Review Board (IRB) matters; and
5. Evaluating and approving the thesis and/or dissertation, and
6. Completing all required paperwork and meeting appropriate deadlines.

Yearly Review of Doctoral Students

Purpose

- To preserve the academic integrity of the program;
- To invest resources in students excelling in their field; and
- To provide constructive guidance to students in the progression of their program.

Annual Reviews

In the Winter of the student's second year and beyond, the report should address all the elements of the Preliminary Portfolio relevant to the student's current and next anticipated graduate student milestone. The report must be prepared in conjunction with and approved by the Major Advisor before it is submitted to the Associate Department Head for Graduate Study. The report should include highlight:

- Significant progress on core courses.
- Completion of *Professional Development Modules* on research ethics, standards, and procedures.
- Conference presentations and publications.

Some general guidance can be offered by expected progress, with some latitude granted for specific circumstances.

1. Students in their second year of study should expect to report on
 - Significant progress on core courses.
 - Completion of *Professional Development Modules* on research ethics, standards, and procedures.
 - Student membership in at least one appropriate national organization.
 - *Submission* of presentation/poster to a state, regional, national, or international.
 - M.A. Plan of Study approved and submitted (if student enters with a Bachelor's degree).
2. In January of the student's third year, the following is expected:
 - Successful completion of all the core courses.
 - Presentation/poster at state, regional, national, or international conference, at least as part of a team.
 - Second presentation/poster submitted to state, regional, national, or international conference.
 - Submission of article with student as co-author to a peer reviewed journal or a chapter for an edited volume.
 - Completion of M.A. thesis, including oral defense (if student enters with a Bachelor's degree).
 - Ph.D. Plan of Study approved and submitted.
3. In January of the student's fourth year, the following is expected:
 - Preliminary Portfolio submitted.
 - Literature review or conceptual/theoretical/applied paper submitted for review as general/comprehensive examination (may only be completed *after* preliminary portfolio submitted).
 - Written dissertation proposal submitted and reviewed; oral defense of proposal before faculty Advisory Committee (may only be submitted *after* approval of completion of Comprehensive/General Exam).
4. Before degree conferral, the following is expected:
 - Second article or chapter submitted; preferred as first author.
 - Third presentation/poster at state, regional, national, or international conference.
 - Teaching and/or service/clinical experience completed.

- Final portfolio submitted for evaluation.
- Dissertation approved, presented, and defended.

It is important to recognize that it is the student's responsibility to make satisfactory and, in most cases, superior progress, exceeding the suggested minimum achievements detailed above. All students *must* continue to register under appropriate catalog numbers every semester or the Graduate School will terminate the student's candidacy even if the student and student's Major Advisor and advisory committee feel satisfactory progress *is* being made. However, simply continuing to pay continuous registration without progress on one's course work, thesis, general examination, or dissertation is *not* considered satisfactory progress. The Major Advisor is empowered to instruct the Graduate School to terminate a student's candidacy for lack of progress.

C. ARTICULATION POLICY

Admission from the M.A. to Ph.D. within Human Development and Family Sciences

It is possible for students who were admitted initially to the M.A. program to apply for continuing study in the doctoral program. Typically, this occurs when the students have or are near completing the M.A. program. Successful applicants will have demonstrated an outstanding record of academic achievement and significant involvement in scholarly research including conference presentation and publication (co-)authorship. Successful completion of the M.A. in HDFS is *not* sufficient for admission into the Ph.D. program. Students applying from within the HDFS program to the doctoral program are required to follow all application procedures. They can ask to have certain elements of their M.A. application to be included in their Ph.D. application (that is, they may ask that GRE scores or transcripts need not be resubmitted). However, they must provide new letters of recommendation (at least some of which may be from faculty with whom they have worked in their M.A. program here) and a new personal statement. In addition, each applicant must provide evidence of his or her scholarly work or potential, in the form of a thesis, publications in referred journals to which they made significant contributions, or other scholarly products.

Current M.A. students interested in pursuing a Ph.D. should talk to their Major Advisor, other faculty, and the Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies as early as possible to discuss their interests.

II. RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND EXPECTATIONS

Climate Statement for the Graduate Program in Human Development and Family Sciences

The faculty, administrators, and graduate students in the Department of HDFS are committed to creating a social, intellectual, and interpersonal climate that enhances the experiences of graduate students and faculty. Graduate students and faculty occupy reciprocal and interdependent positions within the University. Any effort to enhance the climate must address both student and faculty contributions to the climate.

In order to create an optimal climate, we believe that it is important to make the responsibilities and rights of both graduate students and faculty explicit. Both are to act in professional and considerate ways. The Graduate Faculty within HDFS is committed to providing the best educational opportunities that they can for graduate students. Members of the Graduate Faculty will be responsive to student needs and will work to create an atmosphere that promotes academic rigor while respecting the rights, dignity, and privacy of HDFS graduate students. At the same time, graduate students are expected to participate actively in activities both inside and outside the classroom that are important to their educational experience and contribute to the broader academic community. Active participation in the academic life in the department entails graduate students taking responsibility for their own education and taking advantage of the unique learning opportunities available in our program.

What follows represents our effort to make explicit what graduate students can expect of faculty members as instructors, advisors, and supervisors. These expectations constitute what we agree are the rights of graduate students in HDFS. This document also makes explicit what the graduate faculty believe they should be able to expect of graduate students, and these expectations constitute what we think of as the rights of faculty. In developing this statement, we have addressed rights and responsibilities pertaining to graduate instruction, advising, assistantships, and overall participation in the University community.

Mutual Rights and Obligations:

- Faculty and graduate students will communicate with respect and dignity.
- Faculty and graduate students will discuss in advance how a graduate student's involvement in a faculty member's research will be recognized.
- Faculty and graduate students are expected to follow ethical standards for professional conduct.
- Faculty and graduate students will be knowledgeable about and abide by HDFS and University grievance procedures.
- Faculty and graduate students are expected to respond to contacts and requests for information in a timely fashion.
- Faculty and graduate students are expected to take responsibility for the overall climate of the department by working to resolve problems that arise in constructive ways.

Student Rights/Faculty Obligations:

- Faculty will be knowledgeable of and abide by the University's policies regarding sexual harassment, confidentiality, and non-discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and disability.
- Faculty will respond to communications from students in a timely fashion (see the Practices and Policy Statement for HDFS).

- Faculty will provide students with timely feedback concerning course work, theses, proposals, comprehensive examinations, and dissertations (see the Practices and Policy Statement for the Department of Human Development and Family Sciences below).
- Faculty will respect and protect student's right to express differing opinions.
- Faculty, as professional role models, will act in accordance with the ethical standards for professional conduct of their respective professional organization (APA, NCFR, etc.).
- Faculty will provide a clear, complete syllabus that includes a listing of all course requirements, with due dates, distributed at the first seminar meeting.
- Faculty will start and end class on time.
- Faculty will provide concrete feedback to graduate students and suggestions for improving the quality of their work (papers and exams should be returned to students with comments and feedback).

Student Rights/Major Advisor Obligations:

- Graduate students have the right to change advisors without recrimination.
- Major Advisors will provide accurate information about requirements for successful completion of degree requirements.
- Major Advisors will meet with their graduate advisees at least twice a year to discuss courses, graduation requirements, and advisee's concerns.
- Major Advisors will complete all academic and administrative paperwork required for advisees' progress in the program.
- Major Advisors will assist students in setting educational-career goals (when asked by the student).
- Major Advisors should provide concrete feedback and suggestions for improving the quality of the student's scholarly work.

Student Rights/Faculty Supervisor Obligations:

- Faculty supervisors will provide assigned graduate assistants with clear expectations regarding requirements and constructive feedback so each student is aware of the supervisor's evaluation of his or her performance.
- Faculty supervisor's demands on graduate assistants should conform to the job description relative to the funding source.
- Faculty supervisors will provide adequate notice to graduate assistants when they request that a student work during hours outside of the student's normal work schedule.
- Faculty will not expect a graduate assistant to work beyond the contracted period.

Graduate Student Obligations/Faculty Rights:

- Graduate students will attend class and keep up with assigned readings and assignments.
- Graduate students will arrive for class on time and not leave until the end of class.
- Graduate students will actively participate in their classes, while not engaging in text messaging or other activities that are distracting to themselves and others.
- Graduate students will be involved in their own professional development to enhance their knowledge, professional skills and competencies by participation in educational activities such as colloquia, brown bag presentations, informal research discussion groups, etc.
- Graduate students will keep their Major Advisor informed about their progress and possible impediments to their progress.
- Graduate students will address any problems with faculty in a constructive manner. Graduate students will deal directly with a faculty member in addressing an issue or problem or will follow the appropriate grievance procedure.
- Graduate students will respect the multiple demands on faculty members' time.

- Graduate students will understand that faculty members' contracts are nine months (that is, from the first week of the Fall semester until graduation in May). Consequently, any work with a faculty member during the summer months will be based on individual negotiations.

Graduate Student Obligations/Supervisor Rights:

- Graduate students employed as graduate assistants for the academic year will work from the beginning of fall semester to the end of the spring semester, including semester break and exam periods (e.g., 8/23 – 5/22). Students and supervisors will work out arrangements for distributing hours and tasks during the year so that they may be able to take advantage of periods of time away from the University and still fulfill their obligations.
- Students employed as graduate assistants will be responsible for assisting with departmental functions, such as proctoring undergraduate exams.
- Graduate students employed as graduate assistants, work-study, student labor, and in any other capacity will keep track of their hours worked and advise their supervisor if work demands exceed or fail to meet the contracted number of hours.

Practices and Policy Statement

As a rule, the following time periods should guide the review and return of student work in a timely manner. Please note that these rules apply during the academic year and not during the summer months.

For a student paper in a class, if the paper is turned in on time then a grade should be provided in a timely fashion and entered at the latest by the end of the semester. If a student receives an incomplete grade, she/he should turn in the work within the allotted time according to University policy. The faculty member has three months to submit a grade from the time they receive the materials to complete the course work.

For thesis/dissertation proposal, advisors should make their comments and return to the student within a period of approximately four to six weeks from receiving the proposal during the academic year.

For the dissertation, advisors should make their comments and return to students within a period of six to eight weeks (depending on the number of pages to be read). If this is not possible, students should be provided with a reasonable date when they would get their dissertation draft back not exceeding three months from the time that it was received by the advisor.

Response to student e-mail or telephone messages regarding assignments for class or advising should be within three to four days unless the faculty member is attending an activity at which he or she cannot access and respond to such messages. Even then, it should not be more than a week.

Grievance Procedure for Addressing Problems

It may happen, from time to time, that a graduate student in HDFS feels aggrieved or uncertain about whether or not they have been treated fairly by a member of the faculty or staff. In such situations, there are several routes that can be taken to seek resolution or redress. Many difficulties can result from misunderstandings, and so clear communication and informal mediation are usually the most effective and least anxiety-provoking ways of addressing grievances. The first approach in most cases is for the student to request a meeting with the faculty or staff member, to state the problem politely, and to attempt a direct solution. If that proves unsatisfactory, or should such a meeting seem undesirable given the particular circumstance, there are several choices. Sometimes appropriate mediation can be provided by other faculty or staff in the Department or at other campus units such as the Women's Center or one of the cultural centers or religious institutions.

Alternatively, the student may consult with the Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies and the Department Head. It is the responsibility of the academic administrator, then, to gather the facts in the case and seek a mutually acceptable resolution. All faculty and staff in the Department report ultimately to the Department Head and formal action can be taken at that level, if appropriate. In the event that the initial collection of facts suggests a violation of law or of explicit University policy concerning prejudice or harassment, the administrator will immediately consult with appropriate staff in Human Resources, the Graduate School, or the Provost's Office regarding appropriate action.

Challenges to a Grade

The University Senate By-laws describe the process for appeals of final course grades. If a student believes that an error in grading has occurred, the student may request (within six months of the final grade being posted) that the instructor review the grade. If the student cannot contact the instructor, then the student should contact the department head. When the course is in a non-departmentalized school or college, the student should contact the dean or the dean's designee.

If the instructor agrees that a change is justified, the instructor will initiate the grade change using procedures described by the Registrar.

If the instructor believes that the original grade is correct, the student has 30 days to appeal the decision to the head of the department in which the course is taught. The department head will seek input from the instructor and the student to determine his/her opinion related to the merits of the grade appeal.

If after this review, the instructor and the department head agree that a grade change is justified, the instructor will initiate the grade change according to the procedures described by the Registrar.

If the instructor and the department head agree that a grade change is not justified, the department head shall notify the student in writing with a copy to the instructor. If the student is dissatisfied with the appeal decision, the student has 10 working days to request, through the dean of the school or college in which the course is taught, a review by a Faculty Grade Change Review Panel (follow link: <https://guide.uconn.edu/instruction/challenges-to-a-grade/>)

Conflicts Concerning Major Advisors

Although most relationships between graduate students and major advisors are characterized by trust and professionalism on both sides, on occasion conflicts may arise. If, due to personality conflicts or changes in either the student's or advisor's focus of research, one or both determine that the match is not satisfactory, then they should discuss the situation with the Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies. He or she may be able to mediate the differences or facilitate finding another person who would better serve the Major Advisor role for that student.

The Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies will do everything possible to ensure that the student can continue to have high-quality advising. Ultimately, however, it is the responsibility of the student to find another Major Advisor; indeed, in the case of the Ph.D. program, the Graduate School requires that if another Major Advisor cannot be located within six weeks of notification by the faculty member that he or she is unable to continue to serve as Major Advisor, the student's candidacy will be terminated.

The bottom line is that it is essential to a high-quality graduate experience to have a positive working relationship with one's Major Advisor. Thus, if at any point that is not the case, students are free, and indeed encouraged, to find a more suitable match. The administration of both the Department and the Graduate School are prepared to assist in any way with that endeavor. However, it is important to note that a change of

advisor may mean it will take longer to complete all requirements (for example, if a change occurs in the middle of General Exam or at the dissertation stage, necessitating review by a new Major Advisor or committee member and, perhaps, a change in the content of the dissertation).

Additional information on University Policy and Procedures can be found on the Graduate School's site <https://grad.uconn.edu/policies-and-procedures/>

III. DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Colloquia and Informal (aka Brown Bag) Research and Policy Discussions

Graduate students are expected to participate actively in both formal and informal extracurricular programs and activities in the department and University-wide. Full participation as a graduate student in the intellectual life of the community involves active involvement in seminars, lectures, colloquia, brown bag presentations, student presentations, and informal research discussions. The brown bag series of presentations are informal lectures and discussions given by members of the HDFS faculty and students, faculty from related fields, and professionals from outside the University. Several program areas and centers provide regular brown bag series.

The HDFS department arranges special colloquia and seminars throughout the year. Other relevant departments and centers on campus, such as IBACS, InCHIP, Psychological Sciences, Sociology, and the Women's Center, offer relevant colloquia and seminars to which HDFS students are invited.

Schedules and announcements are posted as much in advance as possible so these activities can be planned for in students' calendars and time budgets.

Supervised Field Work: HDFS 5088

Graduate students in HDFS are encouraged to include at least one semester of supervised fieldwork in their graduate program. Students should consult with their Major Advisor well in advance of enrolling in the course to determine the scope of activity and create an understanding with the supervisors at the field setting.

Graduate Laboratory

The Grad Lab (FS 205) is available to all graduate students in HDFS. Individual workstations are available upon request. Formal requests for space will be distributed to all graduate students at the beginning of each academic year. Any student may apply for space. Criteria for allocating individual workstations include ongoing work on dissertation, thesis or other research project, no other allocated space, and other extenuating circumstances underlying the request. Workstations will be awarded at the beginning of each academic year. Renewals must be submitted for subsequent years. Each year, all applications for space will be reviewed.

Students assigned to individual workstations as well as those who use the Grad Lab on a regular basis are expected to share responsibility for overseeing the use of space. To ensure the upkeep of the space, students who use the Grad Lab on a regular basis will be scheduled on a rotating basis to oversee proper upkeep of the space.

In addition to assigned workstations, a common area, kitchen, and computers are available for graduate students to share.

The UConn Council on Family Relations

The UConn Council on Family Relations (UCCFR) is a professional organization for graduate and undergraduate students who are preparing for academic careers in human development, family policy, and other related areas. We are located within the Department of Human Development and Family Sciences, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, at the University of Connecticut. UCCFR is a student affiliate of the National Council on Family Relations (www.ncfr.org), an organization committed to the development and dissemination of knowledge about families and family development and relationships. Some of our activities include:

- Discussing topics related to families, family development, and relationships
- Learning and practicing research presentation skills
- Attending and presenting at regional and national conferences
- Exploring careers in human development and family sciences
- Sharing experiences about graduate school with interested undergraduates

Participation in Regional and National Associations

Another important avenue for graduate students to pursue as they develop a professional identity is membership in professional organizations and societies. Opportunities are available through annual meetings, conferences, and special lectures sponsored by other universities and national organizations and their regional affiliates, such as the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR), Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), American Psychological Association (APA), National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Gerontological Society of America (GSA) and the American Society on Aging (ASA), and the New England Psychological Association (NEPA). Student and associate memberships are usually invited at a fairly nominal charge. Many organizations will waive or reduce registration fees for limited service at the conference. Joining, attending, and presenting at one or more of these national organizations' meetings and conferences or their regional meetings are part of the portfolio review process. Students are encouraged also to participate in student governance in their chosen organizations. Limited funds are available through the Department and the Graduate School for attending conferences, especially when one makes a presentation or poster.

Academic and Personal Counseling Resources

Throughout the course of one's academic career, many questions may arise regarding one's career goals, personal relationships, etc. The most frequently asked question in those cases is "Who do I turn to?" Your Major Advisor or the Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies can often be of help and should be turned to first. They know the various resources available and can make referrals if necessary.

The University's Department of Career Services has expanded the list of programs offered to graduate students. Lunch & Learn Seminars, Resume & CV Assistance, Mock Interviews, and On-Campus Recruiting are just some of the offerings. For more information, visit the UConn Webpages.

Computer Facilities and Assistance

Several terminals with connections to the university server with basic and specialized software belonging to the Human Development and Family Sciences program are available for student use. Two of these computers are located in the Graduate Student Lab in Room 205 of the Family Studies Building. Additional terminals are located throughout campus. Portions of the campus, including the FSB, allow for wireless access.

The Computer Center offers regular short-term workshops designed to provide students and faculty with a working knowledge of both the software and the various programming systems available at the University. Graduate students in HDFS report that these workshops have provided them with many of the basic skills needed to proceed with the analysis of their thesis or other research data. The printed announcements describing these workshops will be posted in time to register for them.

In addition to participating in the software and programming workshops, students should consider utilizing the data sets available through the Institute for Social Inquiry (ISI) data archives. These data sets include political attitude and opinion studies, socialization and youth studies, and community studies. Consult the ISI for further information.

Libraries and Archives

University of Connecticut Library System

The University of Connecticut Library system holds the largest public collection of research materials in the state. More than two million volumes are shelved in the Babbidge Library, which houses nearly three million units of micro text, 180,000 maps, 35,000 reference volumes, and subscriptions to about 5000 current periodicals. The Libraries' World Wide Web site www.lib.uconn.edu provides access to a wealth of information resources in the library, the university, and from around the world. The library home page connects to over 10,000 full text journals, primary reference sources, hundreds of research databases, online encyclopedias, and other resources.

The Thomas J. Dodd Research Center houses a number of archives and special collections of interest to Human Development and Family Sciences. Special collections include the Alternative Press Collection, a repository for radical and ephemeral publications from the activist movements for social, cultural, and political change. The Alternative Press Collection contains more than 7000 newspaper and magazine titles with approximately 200 on subscription, 5000 books and pamphlets, and other sources. Other relevant collections include the Hispanic History and Culture Collections and Children's Literature.

The Human Development and Family Sciences Resource Center

The Resource Center (FSB 111) contains a modest but useful collection of older journals and books in HDFS-related areas, especially gerontology.

The Lyman Maynard Stowe Library, University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, offers extensive holdings in biomedical sciences, including books, journals, audiovisuals, and computer software. The collection includes almost 50,000 books and 5,500 journal titles.

IV. FUNDING FOR GRADUATE EDUCATION: GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS, FINANCIAL AID, AND STUDENT EMPLOYMENT IN HDFS

HDFS Statement Regarding Graduate Assistantship Funding

Graduate education is expensive from everyone's point of view. Even at a state-supported institution like UConn, the tuition and fees (plus living costs) are a considerable outlay for the student, and in our fields, at least, a top-level education is not likely to bring vast wealth --the rewards are less material. From the university's point of view, the cost in faculty time means that each graduate student, especially those in clinical or doctoral training, is a net expense, not a source of income. In this context, funding for graduate studies takes on great importance.

The goal in HDFS is to provide at least half-time support (10 hours per week), in most cases, three quarters (15 hours per week), and full-time support (20 hours per week) for Ph.D. students who request it, who are making timely progress, and when finances and "fit" allow it. If additional funding is available, support may also be provided to M.A. students. We make every effort to maintain funding for graduate students throughout the degree program for which they were accepted. At the same time, because of limitations in funds, we encourage students to be enterprising and creative in developing their own funding opportunities, as illustrated in several of the categories below.

There are essentially five sources of funds for graduate students in the Human Development and Family Sciences Program (beyond the student himself): HDFS funds, research grants, Graduate School funds, student fellowships, and "other." The largest of these consist of the departmental portion of funds provided by the higher administration for basic functioning at the University; they provide nearly 75 percent of the assistantships. These funds come from the legislature (and hence the taxpayers of Connecticut) and from the university pool of tuition dollars. The funds are provided in the form of "assistantships" and are allocated by the department Head, the Associate Head for Undergraduate Studies, and the Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies, for several kinds of purposes: primarily assisting in teaching undergraduate courses, independent teaching of an undergraduate course, assisting in the Student Services Center and supporting essential departmental functions. These assistantships come with a complete waiver of tuition (that is, additional support from the Graduate School), and access to University health insurance.

Funds from research grants are the second largest source in HDFS, and these also come with tuition payment and health benefits. These are funds provided by the federal government (National Institute of Health, National Science Foundation, etc.) or private foundations to members of the faculty to hire assistants in carrying out a specific research project. Sometimes these assistantships require special skills – interviewing, data analysis, foreign language – and the selection of assistants is the prerogative of the faculty researcher (the "Principal Investigator" for the grant). Research grants usually last between one and four years. Generally, faculty with research grants for assistantships work with the Department Head and Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies to identify appropriate students and to manage their support. Students desirous of such assistantships should make their wishes known to faculty who have or may be in the process of obtaining research funding.

A very small number of fellowships are available from the Graduate School. These include Graduate Scholarship awards, for those with outstanding academic records, and multicultural scholar awards, for students from under-represented groups. These are usually allocated for recruitment purposes or as a final step of support for students who are nearing completion of their studies.

On occasion, students obtain their own grants, usually for research, from the National Institute of Health or from foundations that have doctoral support programs, such as the Spencer Foundations. The application process usually involves a faculty sponsor, and it requires a high degree of academic maturity and motivation, but the process itself is educational and, when won, these fellowships mark an excellent beginning to an academic vita.

Finally, some HDFS students obtain assistantships from other departments at UConn for assisting in teaching, research, or student counseling.

Graduate Assistantship Appointments

As of A/Y 2015-2016 Graduate Assistants are members of the GEU-UAW bargaining unit and covered by the collective bargaining agreement. New and updated policies and procedures are currently being developed. One new policy involves the Supplemental Description of Duties forms required to be completed by faculty and research assistants and teaching assistants before or at the beginning of the start of their contract date. The form assures that both faculty and students are aware of expectations and requirements needed to fulfill the assistantship. Completed forms are filed with HDFS and maintained and submitted to the Department of Human Resource (faculty and student should keep copies).

Graduate School degree-seeking students who meet the criteria listed below are eligible. Appointments ordinarily are made for the nine-month period, late August through mid-May, but may be of shorter duration for a variety of reasons. Recipients usually serve the University as teaching assistants, readers, or laboratory and research assistants. They may take fewer than the usual number of courses per year because of this added workload.

To be appointed, to retain an appointment, or to be reappointed, a student must have been accorded (a) Regular (not Provisional) status, (b) must have been maintaining a cumulative average of at least B (3.00) in any course work taken, (c) must be eligible to register (i.e., must not have more than three viable grades of Incomplete on his or her academic record), (d) must be enrolled in a graduate degree program scheduled to extend through the entire period of the appointment or reappointment, and (e) must be a full-time student, counting course work and/or its equivalent together with assistantship duties throughout the period.

The holder of a full assistantship devotes one-half of available time to studies and one-half (approximately 20 hours per week) to assistantship duties, while the holder of a half assistantship ordinarily devotes three-quarters of available time to studies and one-quarter (approximately 10 hours per week) to assistantship duties. Assistantships are not available for less than 10 hours per week.

Ordinarily, a graduate student is not permitted to earn more in a given academic year than the applicable maximum stipend rate indicated below. With the written recommendation of the student's advisory committee and the consent of the Dean of the Graduate School, however, approval may be granted for a student's earnings from University sources to exceed the maximum stipend rate by a limited and specified amount.

Stipend rates for graduate assistants are calibrated in terms of progress toward the advanced degree and experience. Ordinarily, a graduate assistant may not exclude any part of the stipend from U.S. taxable federal gross income. The rates for a full-time (20 hour for two semesters) and half-time (10 hr. for two semesters) for the current academic year are listed at: http://payroll.uconn.edu/PY/for_departments/graduate.html Tuition (but not the General University Fee, the Graduate Matriculation Fee, or other fees) is waived for Graduate Assistants. If an assistantship begins or terminates during the course of a semester, tuition will be prorated on a weekly schedule – charged for that portion of the semester when the assistantship is not in force, waived when it is in force. This often results in an adjustment of the tuition charges, including partial assessment (if the student is registered throughout the semester for course work for which tuition is charged) or

a partial refund (if tuition has been paid). A graduate assistant is eligible for medical benefits (health insurance). Graduate assistants should be aware that it is necessary to complete the proper forms with the Division of Human Resources to activate the health insurance. The health insurance does not take effect automatically.

In exceptional cases a graduate assistant may be appointed on a 12-month basis, with the stipend being increased proportionately. There are, however, no additional benefits or waiver of tuition in the summer months.

When students become eligible for the Level M or Level P stipend rate, it is the responsibility of their department to request such an increase promptly, by filing a new employment authorization effective the first day of the biweekly payroll period following the date on which the student completes master's degree requirements (or satisfies master's degree equivalency) or the date on which the student passes the doctoral General Examination in its entirety. Students are responsible for ascertaining that any required documentation — such as a report of a master's final or doctoral general examination, a transcript, or a report of a pertinent incomplete grade made up — is promptly filed in the Graduate Records Office and that their current stipend conforms with their eligibility.

Other Potential Sources for Graduate Assistantships

Graduate students may seek graduate assistantships outside of Human Development and Family Sciences. Graduate assistantships outside of HDFS may include responsibilities for programming and services, research, administrative and technical support.

Most recently, graduate assistantship and hourly employment opportunities have been available from various centers and programs. These include Career Services, the Individualized Major program, Graduate Student Senate, Resident Honors House Supervisor, UConn Writing Center, Neag School of Education University Program for College Students with Learning Disabilities, Student Health Services, and the University of Connecticut Health Center in Farmington.

Other Types of Financial Aid

Many additional sources of funding for graduate education exist through both internal and external opportunities. Opportunities to seek external funding can be found through the office of National Scholarships and Fellowships at onsf.uconn.edu. A searchable database of opportunities can be accessed through the website, in addition to resources helpful to graduate students seeking to prepare competitive applications. Additional internal awards are available in many programs, and students are encouraged to seek information about awards on program websites. Although not exhaustive, the Graduate School website maintains a list of internal funding opportunities.

Need-based financial aid includes: Federal Direct Stafford Loans (FDSL), Federal Work-Study (FWS), and University of Connecticut Tuition Remission Grants. Citizens or permanent residents of the United States apply for need based financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on the web at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov> each year. UConn's on time deadline each year is March 1 (May 1, for entering graduate students). [**Note:** International students are not eligible to receive need-based financial aid.] All need-based financial aid recipients and University funded and merit scholarship recipients must meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements, which are based on federal regulations.

These requirements include maintenance of an appropriate grade point average (3.00) and satisfactory completion of a percentage (75%) of the number of credit hours attempted in each award year, as well as not exceeding published credit maximums for the student's program plan. A warning is sent to students once they have reached their degree minimums. A complete text of this policy is available at <http://www.financialaid.uconn.edu/sap>. Assistantships, fellowships and other awards from University sources are used in combination with need-based aid to calculate final financial aid amounts offered either for a semester or an academic year. Additional information regarding need-based financial aid for Graduate students is available from the Office of Student Financial Aid Services at <http://financialaid.uconn.edu/index.php/Gradprocess>. The following list of assistantships, fellowships, and other forms of aid includes only the major sources of support available to students at this University. Other sources may be available upon further inquiry.

Tuition Assistance Program for Out-of-State Master's Degree Students

This program provides tuition assistance for selected students, who are classified as out-of-state for tuition purposes, in terminal master's degree tracks. A limited number of tuition grants are awarded each year on a competitive basis to out-of-state master's students. These grants permit the selected students, in effect, to pay tuition at the in-state rate. The selection criteria for these grants include: full-time matriculation in a master's degree program that ordinarily does not lead to the doctorate, absence of graduate assistantship support (which carries with it a tuition waiver), out-of-state residency status, evidence of academic excellence (based on grade point averages, test scores, etc.), and U.S. citizen or permanent resident status. Each student chosen for participation in this program is eligible for a maximum of four semesters of support. This program is administered by the Graduate School. Students are nominated by faculty members in terminal-track master's degree programs.

University Predoctoral Fellowships

These are awarded by the Graduate School on the recommendation of the graduate faculty in the degree program concerned. Students who intend to earn the D.M.A. or Ph.D. and who have demonstrated capability for completing a doctoral program may apply to their academic departments for such fellowships at any stage of their graduate career. Award amounts range from small amounts to full fellowships and/or tuition equivalency. Fellowship awards do not include the requirement of teaching, research, or any other service duties and are not considered to be employment. Predoctoral Fellows must be Regular (not Provisional), full-time students, regardless of the amount of the fellowship. Recipients must present evidence of such registration and payment or deferment of appropriate fees upon receipt of fellowship checks. The Dean of the Graduate School may cancel or reduce an individual award if the student fails to maintain satisfactory academic and financial standing.

Semi-annual Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships

Pending budgetary approval, The Graduate School awards a limited number of Spring and Fall Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships (DDF) awards for advanced students in doctoral programs requiring a dissertation. The DDF enables students to place a higher priority on writing their doctoral dissertation as expeditiously as possible.

Eligible applicants should fill out the Semi-Annual Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Program form and forward it in person, by mail, fax or by email to The Graduate School prior to the deadline. <http://grad.uconn.edu/financial-resources/internal-funding-opportunities/semi-annual-doctoral-dissertation-fellowship-program/>

Summer Fellowships for Doctoral and Pre-Doctoral Students

Summer Fellowships are intended to support advanced graduate students during the summer months so that they may accelerate the process of completing their doctoral requirements. The Vice Provost for Graduate Education provides funds for this program directly to the academic units. Each unit uses its own criteria to determine who will receive an award. The amount of each fellowship varies from department to department. Contact your graduate program staff for information on applying for this fellowship.

Part-time Employment Federal Work-Study

(FWS) is a federally funded financial aid work program for students with a demonstrated financial need, as determined by information submitted on the FAFSA. Unlike other forms of aid, a Federal Work-Study award is not applied to a student's fee bill. Students receive biweekly paychecks for hours worked.

The **Student Labor Program** is a work program open to all University of Connecticut students and designed to supplement regular staff with students seeking part-time employment. The Office of Student Financial Aid Services advertises available positions on their website: <www.studentjobs.uconn.edu>. Students are prompted to select the category y their job choice(s) and are provided with a list of supervisors seeking candidates for those jobs. Students then arrange interviews with prospective employers to discuss the details of the job.

Federal Loan Programs

Federal Stafford Loans (FSLs) are offered to students attending the University at least halftime. Subsidized FSLs are based on financial need; the interest on these loans is subsidized by the federal government. If a student does not qualify for a subsidized FSL, he or she may borrow an unsubsidized FSL. The student is responsible for the interest which accrues on the loan, and has the option to either pay the interest while in school or defer payment of the interest until repayment begins, six months following graduation. Annual loan limits for eligible graduate students are: \$8,500 in Subsidized FSL and \$10,000 in Unsubsidized FSL per academic year. After July 1, 2007, the unsubsidized loan limit for graduate students was increased to \$12,000. The maximum aggregate FSL (Subsidized and Unsubsidized) amount a graduate student may hold is \$138,500. An excellent, detailed source of information regarding federal aid programs and the financial aid process is **The Student Guide**, available at college and university financial aid offices.

Graduate Student Senate Short-Term Loan Fund

This fund is administered by the Graduate Student Senate (GSS), and is funded by graduate student activities fees. It provides loans of up to \$1000 to assist graduate students in dealing with financial emergencies. Loans are issued for 60-day periods and are interest free. Applications are available in the Graduate Student Senate Office, Student Union Room 213 and on the [GSS Web site](#).

International Students

Before their admission is complete and a student visa can be issued, non-immigrant international students must present documentary evidence of their ability to meet all expenses for at least the first year of study, together with an acceptable plan for financing the remainder of their program. International applicants are not eligible for need based financial aid. Grants providing tuition and the general University fee are available to a small number of international students who are sponsored by certain organizations [e.g., ATLAS and LASPAU] recognized by the Graduate School as being devoted to the promotion of advanced education programs and with which the University has a standing agreement.

Veterans Administration Educational Assistance & Tuition Waiver Program

The Office of Student Financial Aid Services provides information concerning benefits under the various educational assistance programs provided by the Veterans Administration. Students who attend the University and receive educational assistance under the following chapters must contact the Office of Student Financial Aid Services prior to the beginning of each semester: Chapter 31 (Vocational Rehabilitation Training Act for Disabled Veterans); Chapter 32 (Post-Vietnam Veterans Educational Assistance); Chapter 35 (Dependents Educational Assistance Act: children, wives, and widows of totally disabled and deceased veterans – service connected deaths); Chapter 1606 (Montgomery G.I. Bill - Selected Reserve); Chapter 30 (Montgomery G.I. Bill – Active Duty). Veterans must notify the University every semester of their registration for certification of enrollment. Any changes in veteran status (credit load, withdrawal, etc.) must also be reported promptly to the University. Additionally, veterans may qualify for a tuition waiver under the State of Connecticut tuition waiver program. Veterans must provide a form DD214 (separation of service) and must be recognized as a resident of Connecticut at the time of admission or readmission to the University. Please see the tuition waiver criteria in the “Fees and Expenses” section of the catalog. Veterans seeking tuition waiver applications or assistance should contact the Office of Student Financial Aid Services, 233 Glenbrook Rd., U-4116, Wilbur Cross Building room 102, Storrs, Connecticut 06269-4116 or call (860) 486-2442

Travel Funds for HDFS Graduate Students

In 2007 the Department Head and faculty of the HDFS department instituted a policy of providing limited funds for travel to conferences when a student is presenting a paper or poster. A form is available on the HDFS Graduate HuskyCT site. Funds are limited, and thus maximum amounts per student varies year to year (**pending availability of funding**). Students are encouraged to apply as soon as they know a paper or poster has been accepted.

Additional Information and Sources

Federal & Private Loans:

- <http://www.gradloans.com/> -- One of the best Financial Aid sites available, containing deadline calendars, guides for choosing a loan, and specific information for financing your graduate education.
- <http://www.cashe.com/runsearch.html> -- Online Sallie Mae loan search. Includes loans for Graduate work.
- <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> -- Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Not all Federal Aid can apply to graduate course study, but there are some loans and grants available.
- <http://www.edu.gov/DirectLoan/students.html> -- Federal search/application for Direct Loans.

Grant Information:

- <http://www.ed.gov/funding.html> -- List of Federal funding sources and information.
- <http://www.ed.gov/GrantApps/> -- Applying for grants from the Department of Education.
- <http://www.grantsnet.com/> -- Searchable database of Biomedical grants and funding.

V. RESEARCH AND SERVICE CENTERS IN HDFS

There are six direct service, research, and advanced training facilities included within the department of Human Development and Family Sciences, each offering a unique opportunity to students and to a larger academic or public audience:

The Center for Applied Research in Human Development, a joint enterprise with the Cooperative Extension Service in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, specializes in meeting the needs of community, state, and federal agencies for high quality training, evaluation, and consultative services. These resources are increasingly in demand as human service programs are required to document the need for the services they offer and to evaluate their impact on the individuals and families being served.

The University of Connecticut Child Development Laboratories (CDL) is licensed by the state of Connecticut and accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs. The Laboratory serves the university, the HDFS department, the Storrs community, and the New England region as a research facility for the study of child development, providing state-of-the-art training for students whose goal is a career in direct service to young children, as well as serving 66 local children and their parents as a model child care and education center. The CDL is a member of the Council of Child Development Laboratory Administrators.

The Center for the Study of Culture, Health, and Human Development is a University-wide resource for faculty from various disciplines focusing on the scientific understanding and active promotion of healthy human development in its cultural context, including HDFS, Anthropology, Nursing, Nutritional Sciences, Pediatrics, and Education. The Center also manages the University-wide Graduate Certificate in Culture, Health, and Human Development.

The (Ronald and Nancy Rohner) Center for the Study of Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection is an internationally-recognized center devoted to understanding healthy parental-child relations and the pathologies of child maltreatment. Faculty at the Center coordinate several national and international research projects, host visiting scholars from around the world, and consult with state and national agencies on the assessment and promotion of sound parent-child relations.

VI. THE FACULTY AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF

See <https://hdfs.uconn.edu/faculty/> for a current roster of HDFS faculty, with summaries of their research, links to CVs, etc.