

# Child, Family, and Consumer Studies

## Family Life Option

### Why study family life?

*Would you like to help families get their finances in order?*

*Would you like to help them learn what is involved in finding and buying a home?*

*Can you see yourself in a helping profession, working one-on-one with families?*

*Do you consider yourself a good communicator?*

*Do you think you'd enjoy helping consumers get the most for their money, including avoiding financial ripoffs?*

In the **family life option** you will learn knowledge and skills to enrich the lives of individuals and families. The option is excellent preparation for becoming an accredited financial counselor or certified family life educator.

### Program strengths/highlights

You will study how families work, the interrelationships of families and society, human growth and development through the life span, human sexuality, family financial planning, consumer rights and responsibilities, time management, parent education, public policy on families, family housing, and ethical conduct for professionals in the field of family life.

### Faculty and facilities

The professor overseeing the family life option has been teaching personal finance, consumer economics, and housing for more than 20 years. She will advise you on course selection, help place you in internships that can lead to employment, and become your mentor.

### Specialized clubs

The Family and Consumer Sciences Club, a service organization, promotes leadership, personal and academic growth, and professionalism among its members. Palouse Area Association for the Education of Young Children works to improve the welfare of young children and their families in nearby communities. In Phi Upsilon Omicron, the national honor society for family and consumer sciences, students enjoy fun, fellowship, and the opportunity to develop professional and leadership skills.

### Career opportunities

Bankruptcy counselor\*

Budget/debt/credit counselor

Certified family life educator\*\*

Consumer educator

Consumer information specialist

Consumer protection consultant

Family financial specialist\*

Financial consultant

Housing administrator

Human relations specialist

Human services worker

Investment advisor (stocks, bonds, annuities)

Loan officer

Retirement counselor

Social service program coordinator

\*You will need an Accredited Financial Counselor credential.

\*\*You will need an NCFR credential.

### Certified family life educator

The coursework you take in the family life option covers the ten family life substance areas you need to know to become a family life educator certified by the National Council on Family Relations. You can get provisional certification based on coursework alone. Once you have two years of work experience, you'll qualify for full certification.

### Accredited financial counselor

A degree with the family life option prepares you for the two qualifying exams you will need to take, one in personal finance and one in family counseling. With passing scores on the exams, and one year's work experience, you can become an accredited financial counselor.

*“The teachers are so welcoming and helpful. They really care about each student individually.”*

Emily Maasdam, early childhood development and education major

**Family Life Option**  
4-year plan 2006-07

<b>Fall</b>			<b>Spring</b>		
<b>Freshman</b>					
FCS 105	Individual & Family Development	3	Engl 102	College Writing & Rhetoric	3
FCS 123	Textiles	3		Natural Science Elective	4
Engl 101	Intro. to College Writing (if required)	3		Family & Consumer Sciences Electives	9
	Humanities Elective	3			
<b>*TOTAL</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>*TOTAL</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Sophomore</b>					
FCS 205	Concepts in Human Nutrition	3	FCS 234	Infancy & Early Childhood	3
FCS 223	Evaluation of Apparel and Textiles	3	FCS 240	Intimate Relationships	3
FCS 251	Survey of FCS Professions (web course)	1		Social Science Elective	3
	Family & Consumer Sciences Elective	3		Humanities Elective	3
	Natural Science Elective	4		Family & Consumer Sciences Elective	3
<b>*TOTAL</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>*TOTAL</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Junior</b>					
FCS 334	Middle Childhood-Adolescence	3	FCS 346	Personal & Family Finance & Management	4
or FCS 340	Parent-Child Relationships in Family & Community	3	FCS 428	Housing America's Families (odd years)	3
	Family & Consumer Sciences Electives	9	FCS 445	Issues in Work & Family Life (even years)	3
<b>*TOTAL</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>*TOTAL</b>		<b>10</b>
<b>Senior</b>					
FCS 448	Consumer Economic Issues	3	FCS 440	Contemporary Family Relationships	3
FCS 451	Professional Development	3	FCS 434	Adulthood & Aging within the Context of Family (odd years)	3
	Upper-Division Family & Consumer Sciences Elective	3		Family & Consumer Sciences Elective	3
	Humanities or Social Science Elective	3			
<b>*TOTAL</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>*TOTAL</b>		<b>9</b>

**Note:** Course offerings may change from year to year. Always check the current course catalog.

\*Students must fill out their course plans with electives to reach a total 132 credits.

**To learn more**  
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