

Human Development and Family Life Education

Samford University
Orlean Beeson School of Education
Learn to Lead
Lead to Learn



The Orlean Beeson School of Education empowers its students to educate, lead, and serve; enriching the community and making a positive difference in the world.

Samford University's Department of Human Development and Family Life Education focuses on enriching the lives of families through education, service and advocacy. Jobs in this field take courage and stamina. With unmatched field experience, community support and a strong reputation, graduates leave Samford ready to conquer any challenge.

94%

of students employed or enrolled in graduate school within six months of graduation

Approved by the National Council on Family Relations since 1999

High-quality Christian education

15:1

student-to-faculty ratio



Human Development and Family Science

1 Program ▪ 5 Tracks

Being on the front lines means being an advocate during difficult times. Graduates are equipped with the power to impact lives for the better.

Curriculum focused on human development within the family context, as well as the family's interactions with broader social institutions, gives students broader insight and experience than their peers when applying to graduate school.

Students graduate having been exposed to both practical and theoretical content in areas such as dating and relationship formation, gender roles, marital relationships, human sexuality, parenting, family dynamics, families and society. Graduates are eligible for professional Family Life Educator certification by the National Council on Family Relations.

Concentrations available in:

- Child Development Education
- Child Life
- Gerontology

Accelerated programs available in:

- 3+3 Law
- Fast-track Master of Social Work

Each student completes:

125
hours of practicum

50
hours of service learning experience

80
hours of community service



Human Development and Family Science

with a concentration in **Child Development Education**

This concentration is a collaboration with Orlean Beeson School of Education's Department of Teacher Education.

Graduates with a concentration in child development education have a full grasp on developmental, social, economical and other factors that often play a role in a child's ability to learn in the classroom. The curriculum focus is on the development of young children from infancy through pre-kindergarten. Curriculum enables students to dive into the principles and application of early learning and graduate with an in-depth understanding of child development and best teaching practices.

Human Development and Family Science

with a concentration in **Child Life**

This concentration is for those who desire to work in a medical setting providing emotional, social and intellectual support for children and families.

Students learn the developmental impact of illness and injury and determine coping strategies to help children facing short- and long-term hospital stays and health-related issues. Certified child life specialists help improve patient and family care by including therapeutic play, preparation and education that reduce uncertainty, fear and anxiety for children facing hospital stays.

**Students must submit course work for review to the Association of Child Life Professionals and must pass exam to become a certified child life specialist*

Human Development and Family Science

with a concentration in **Gerontology**

This concentration prepares students to provide services and research for those in the later stages of life. Special emphasis is placed on how aging affects the individual as well as the family. Professionals with a gerontology background can help individuals and their families through successful transition during this stage of life.

In addition to three concentrations, the department also offers two fast-track opportunities. The department has partnered with other schools on campus to provide an opportunity for dedicated students to complete course work and enter the field of their choosing at an accelerated rate.

Human Development and Family Science

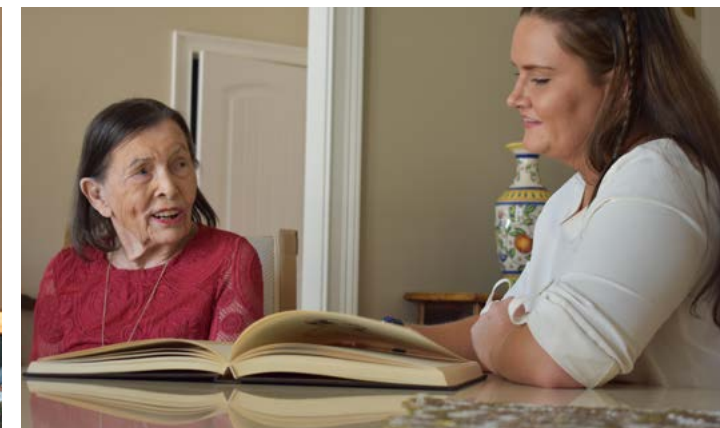
with an accelerated track in **3+3 Law**

This track is ideal for the student interested in adoption, divorce, foster care, intimate partner violence and other areas that affect the well-being of children and families. This program requires acceptance into Cumberland School of Law following the standard application process.

Human Development and Family Science

with an accelerated track in **Social Work**

This option allows completion of a bachelor's degree in human development and family science and a Master of Social Work after just five years of study. The program offers concentrations in clinical social work and global community development.





Research and Service Learning Experiences

In addition to rigorous curriculum, faculty and staff believe the best way for students to learn is through practical content application. That is why students have the opportunity to participate in service learning, practicum experiences and are required to complete authentic research projects that fit the area of their interest.

100% of students conduct original research projects

Dedicated faculty and staff help students discover their passion and aid them in conducting graduate-level research

Six recipients of the Outstanding Undergraduate Paper Award from the National Council on Family Relations

“Through my practicum, I began to understand the potential impact of involving outside resources, such as government agencies and nonprofits within a community. For me, my practicum was an eye opener like no other. The experience enriched my learning towards becoming a better family life educator.” —*Allison Hamby Troutman '11*

Student Organizations

Junior Dean's Executive Council

The council provides an environment for students to collaborate with Jeanie Box, dean of Orlean Beeson School of Education. This avenue allows students to share their perspectives about the school and departments to offer suggestions for ways in which their learning environment can be enhanced. Students who serve on the council participate in events hosted by the school. It is an excellent opportunity for members to network and meet professionals in their field.

Samford University National Council on Family Relations (SUNcfr)

This student organization provides an opportunity for students to discuss and exchange ideas on family-related professional development issues. Members experience professional development opportunities including a career expo with professionals in the field and complete community service events throughout the school year. This organization is an affiliate of the National Council on Family Relations.

Departmental Delegates

This leadership opportunity is for students who are interested in representing the Department of Human Development and Family Life Education. Delegates assist with the important task of recruiting new majors by serving as hosts for prospective students at recruitment events and any additional departmental events that may arise.



“My human development and family science classes have truly shaped the way that I view the world and taught me that helping people is a privilege.”
—Jane Reid '17



Contact us



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