Family and Human Development, PhD

Become trained to assume leadership roles as researchers in universities, public or privately funded agencies, industry or government. Enjoy a flexible model of training with renowned faculty who provide professional opportunities for development and career placement. Specializations available in social and emotional development, measurement and statistical analysis, and diversity science.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD Family and Human Development

The PhD program in family and human development is devoted to the study of families, children and youth. The program's research, teaching and service have direct meaning in the lives of children and adults, and for the families and communities in which they live.

The faculty share a common commitment to high-quality research that both increases the basic understanding of human and family development and has the potential to contribute to the improvement of the lives of children and families.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- **Location:** Tempe campus

Degree Requirements

85 credit hours, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

Each student must prepare and submit a plan of study in conjunction with the chair and members of his or her supervisory committee once completing 50 percent of the minimum required credit hours for the degree. The plan of study consists of a minimum of the following:
• Postbaccalaureate (for students entering after the bachelor's degree) --- Of the 85 credit hours for a postbaccalaureate program, six credit hours are dedicated to an empirical project and 12 credit hours are of a dissertation. Postbaccalaureate students complete a master's-in-passing before advancing to their doctoral studies.

• Post-masters (for students entering after the master's degree) --- Of the 55 credit hours of the post-master's degree program, 12 credit hours are of a dissertation.

Additional credit hours in the postbaccalaureate and post-master's degree pathways involve courses in:

• electives relating to family and human development
• family and human development
• statistics and research methods

**Admission Requirements**

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have a bachelor's or master's degree, in any field, from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of a student's first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. a resume or curriculum vitae
4. statement of goals relevant to the doctoral program
5. three letters of recommendation
6. verbal, quantitative, and analytical GRE scores
7. proof of English proficiency

**Additional Application Information:**

An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency via a TOEFL score of at least 600.
The personal statement must be four to six pages, double-spaced, and address the applicant's professional goals, the applicant's strengths that will enable the applicant to succeed in the program, a detailed description of past research experience, relevant professional experiences or responsibilities, and specific personal research interests. The applicant also must identify two or three faculty members whose research interests match their own and explain why they are good matches.

Three letters of recommendation are required. These must include at least one from an instructor at the applicant's institution where undergraduate or graduate work was completed. The letters should be from people who know the applicant in a professional or academic capacity. Letters from family members or friends do not meet this criterion.

Students should see the program website for full application deadlines.

**Application Deadlines**

**Fall**

**Contact Information**

Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics | SS 144
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Admission Deadlines