Become trained to assume a leadership role as a researcher in a university, a public or privately funded agency, an industry or in government. Enjoy a flexible model of training with renowned faculty who provide professional opportunities. Specializations are 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:** [The 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

**Required Core (1 credit hour)**

FAS 503 Academic Professional Development (3)
Electives (40 credit hours)

Other Requirements (26 credit hours)
CDE 531 Theoretical Issues in Child Development (3)
FAS 500 Research Methods (3)
FAS 531 Theoretical Issues in Family Sciences (3)
FAS or CDE 598 Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences I (3)
FAS or CDE 598 Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences II (3)
FAS or CDE 598 Quantitative Methods I Lab (1)
FAS or CDE 598 Quantitative Methods II Lab (1)
two graduate level courses in advanced methods or statistics (6)
one graduate level diversity course (3)

Research (6 credit hours)
FAS or CDE 592 Research (6)

Culminating Experience (12 credit hours)
FAS or CDE 799 Dissertation (12)

Additional Curriculum Information
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 for the dissertation.

Post-master's (for students entering after the master's degree): When approved by the student's supervisory committee and the Graduate College, this program allows 30 credit hours from a previously awarded master's degree to be used for this degree. Of the 55 credit hours of the post-master's degree program, 12 credit hours are for the dissertation.

Electives should be chosen in consultation with and approval of the advisor. Electives may be selected within or outside of the Sanford School. All elective courses must be 500 level or higher.

Substitutions for all courses listed under other requirements may be made per department approval.

For the diversity course requirement, students should refer to the department for a list of approved courses.

For the advanced methods or statistics requirement, students take two courses with content that advances beyond Quantitative Methods I and II.

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 cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (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 must provide proof of English proficiency via a TOEFL score of at least 600 regardless of current residency.

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