

Family Studies

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(Social Work and Family Studies)

The well-being of individuals, couples, and families is a national and global concern. Family studies is an integrative field that synthesizes knowledge from many liberal arts disciplines, particularly economics, political science, psychology, social work, and sociology.

Social Work and Family Studies offers a concentration in family studies.

Intended Learning Outcomes for the Concentration (<http://wp.stolaf.edu/curriculum-committee/family-studies-concentration-ilos>)

Recommendations for Graduate Study

The concentration in family studies is designed to enable students to learn about families in both theory and practice; it is a course of study that can enhance student learning in any major. This concentration is intended to help to prepare students entering careers with families including marriage and family therapy, education, and ministry, or to family practice in law, medicine, nursing, social work, or public policy. Students who intend to go directly to graduate school should also consider enrollment in a statistics course and a research methods course in social work, psychology, or sociology/anthropology.

Requirements

Recommended preparation: introductory courses in social sciences, biology, and statistics

Required department courses ¹

FAMST 232	Introduction to Family Studies	1.00
FAMST 242	Family Relationships	1.00
FAMST 391	Senior Seminar: Special Topics	1.00

Electives

Select two of the following electives: ² 2.00

FAMST 253	Human Sexuality
HIST 272	Women in America
NURS 312	Family Health
PSYCH 223	Exploring India: Human Development in Cross-Cultural Context (abroad)
PSYCH 241	Developmental Psychology
PSYCH 350	Parenting and Child Development in Diverse Families
PSYCH 390	Issues in Psychology (when taught as Intimate Relationships)

SWRK 125	Racism and Sexism in American Family Life
SWRK 221	Social Work and Social Welfare
SOAN 248	Sociology of Dying, Death, and Bereavement
SOAN 260	Marriage and the Family
SPAN 250	Gateway to the Spanish-Speaking World

Experiential component (see below)

Total Credits 5

- These required courses provide a core of knowledge that is essential to thinking systematically about families as social systems and family as a social institution and its interactions within the larger social context.
- At least one elective must be outside the Department of Social Work and Family Studies. These courses allow students to tailor their further knowledge about families to fit a specific application area or to integrate with their chosen majors. Elective courses not on this list may be counted with prior approval of the program director.

Experiential component

This requirement is usually an academic, credit-bearing experience completed during the senior year (including the previous summer.) It is designed to ensure that concentrators participate in an experience that applies basic family knowledge (theories, frameworks, concepts) to real families in a setting beyond the classroom. It must be approved by a faculty member in the Department of Social Work and Family Studies **prior** to enrollment. The experience and concomitant learning is presented as a graded assignment for a public audience in the senior seminar FAMST 391. Through the experience, students demonstrate attainment of intended learning outcomes for family studies.

Guidelines for the experiential component:

- Includes a minimum of 40 hours devoted to direct experience with families (more than one);
- Can be domestic or international;
- Can be taken either graded or Pass/No Pass (P/N);
- Can be submitted for distinction in a major, if it meets that department's guidelines for distinction.
- Must be approved by a faculty member in the Department of Social Work and Family Studies prior to enrollment.

The experience *may* be:

- A project in a senior year course, or work with families in a social work practicum or nursing clinical; or
- An independent research project with family interaction (FAMST 396); or
- An internship with a family serving agency (quarter-, half-, or full-credit; FAMST 294).
- A summer experience prior to senior year that involves direct experience with families.

Courses

FAMST 232: Introduction to Family Studies

Students examine American families through the life cycle in relation to personal and professional life, with the major emphasis on communication and commitment in interpersonal relationships. Students study courtship, marriage, and adjustment to parenthood. They examine stressors that affect families such as family violence, divorce, grief and loss, and socioeconomic issues. This course takes an interdisciplinary approach; students have opportunity for a broad range of individualized study. Offered annually during the fall semester. Counts toward American studies major and family studies and management studies concentrations.

FAMST 242: Family Relationships

Students study the contemporary American family as it meets the challenge of a changing social world. The primary objective is to enlarge both personal and intellectual understanding of the complex issues facing families. Using the range of behavioral sciences concerned with family life, students study the interaction of individuals within families and families within society. Primary emphasis is on theories and practice of family communication. Offered annually in the spring semester. Counts toward American studies major, family studies and educational studies concentrations, and women's and gender studies major and concentration.

FAMST 253: Human Sexuality

This course explores the varied dimensions of human sexuality as they affect and are affected by past and present human relationships. Sexual problems and issues are examined for the development of a value framework and for the enrichment of family life. The course emphasizes critical thinking skills applied to current issues in human sexuality (e.g. gay marriage, race and gender issues, sexual violence). Students examine issues in contemporary research and ethics in sexuality. Offered each semester. Counts toward American studies major, family studies concentration, and women's and gender studies major and concentration.

FAMST 294: Academic Internship**FAMST 298: Independent Study****FAMST 391: Senior Seminar: Special Topics**

This required capstone seminar focuses on the exploration of current research and the integration of key foundation disciplines in the study of families. Students explore special topics through assigned readings and lecture material.

Prerequisites: FAMST 232 and FAMST 242. Students can take FAMST 242 and FAMST 391 concurrently with permission of department chair or FAMST 391 instructor.

FAMST 394: Academic Internship**FAMST 396: Directed Undergraduate Research**

This course provides a comprehensive research opportunity, including an introduction to relevant background material, technical instruction, identification of a meaningful project, and data collection. The topic is determined by the faculty member in charge of the course and may relate to his/her research interests. Offered based on department decision. May be offered as a 1.00 credit course or .50 credit course.

Prerequisite: determined by individual instructor.

FAMST 398: Independent Research

Faculty

Chair, 2015-2016**Mary S. Carlsen**

Professor of Social Work and Family Studies
social policy; global social work; professional ethics; end of life care; family studies

Grace E. Cho

Associate Professor of Psychology
developmental psychology; child development; cultural psychology; socioemotional development; parent-child processes

Dana L. Gross

Professor of Psychology, Associate Dean of Interdisciplinary General Studies
developmental psychology; academic civic engagement; off-campus study

Erica Weekes Kanewischer

Visiting Assistant Professor of Social Work and Family Studies
therapy

Anna K. Kuxhausen

Associate Professor of History
Russian history; women's history

Diane C. LeBlanc

Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies and Director of the Writing Program
rhetoric and composition, creative writing and women's studies

Lisa L. Moore

Assistant Professor of Social Work and Family Studies
race and culture in families; emerging adulthood theory; social work education

Maria M. Oriña

Assistant Professor of Psychology
social psychology; intimate relationships, social influence and persuasion; social development

Ryan R. Sheppard

Assistant Professor of Sociology/Anthropology
family; gender; race/ethnicity; social movements; quantitative research

Susan E. Smalling

Assistant Professor of Social Work and Family Studies
anti-oppressive research and practice; indigenous populations; family and child welfare