FACULTY

CFS faculty are committed to the following:

• Student mentoring and advising
• Excellence in teaching
• Meaningful research
• Community outreach and engagement
• Improving the quality of life for children, families and communities
• Serving in professional organizations

Our faculty includes licensed marriage and family therapists, certified family life educators, certified child life specialists and experts in child development.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Opportunities for financial assistance are available through the Financial Aid office and through the department.

CONTACT INFORMATION

PHONE: 601.266.4679
FAX: 601.266.4680
WWW.USM.EDU/CFS
SCAN CODE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

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THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE
CHILD DEVELOPMENT EMPHASIS
EMPOWERING STUDENTS
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

601.266.4679
WWW.USM.EDU/CFS
This program has enlightened me both intellectually and socially; it has taught me how to communicate with others on their level. The faculty is motivated to meet the needs of the students wherever they are in their lives. They are always there to lend a hand, and they provide their students with useful information that is imperative to improve the quality of life of those around them.

— LAH-LAH DEVINE,
CHILD DEVELOPMENT EMPHASIS

As a graduate of this program, I feel that I was more than prepared to enter into the professional world of child development. The faculty and staff were so friendly and accommodating to me. With my degree, I have been able to do a variety of jobs with children. The opportunities are endless, and I credit Southern Miss for giving me the knowledge and skills to perform the job I love so much!

— MELISSA SINGLEY,
CHILD DEVELOPMENT EMPHASIS

“I have learned so much with the faculty and staff. They do not just view you as a number or data; they view you as an individual that has a hunger to learn and become better.”

— QUENTIN ESCOBAR, CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES MINOR
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Licensed pre-K and kindergarten educators*
- Head Start teachers
- Early education teachers
- Administrators in child and family programs
- Early education program evaluators/monitors
- Early childhood professional development specialists
- Early childhood technical assistance specialists
- Parent educators

Additional employment opportunities exist within the following:
- Nonprofit agencies
- Faith-based organizations
- Government and public policy programs

*Child development special licensure is obtained through the Mississippi Department of Education after having earned a degree with a child development emphasis from an AAFCS- or NAeyC-accredited program and passing the Praxis II Early Childhood (0021/5021) and Praxis PLT Early Childhood (0621/5621) exams.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Coursework in the Child and Family Studies program emphasizes the importance of families as systems of interconnected individuals and the relationship between family dynamics, resiliency, community wellness and quality of life.

Laboratory, field experiences and experiential learning are central to students’ preparation, providing the best academic foundation within a real-life context. Students integrate formal academic learning with personal and professional experiences so that training is focused, authentic and meaningful.

Students may also minor in child and family studies.

ADVANCED DEGREES

Graduates are prepared for advanced graduate study in a variety of disciplines:
- Child and Family Studies
- Early Childhood Education
- Child Life
- Early Intervention
- Human Growth and Development
- Pediatric Physical Therapy
- Pediatric Occupational Therapy
- Therapeutic Recreation
- Community Health
- Social Work
- Speech-Language Pathology
- Psychology
- Marriage and Family Therapy

CD PRACTICUM AND LABORATORY PLACEMENTS

Practicum and laboratory field experiences provide valuable experiential learning opportunities for our students and serve as a vital connection between classroom instruction and hands-on application of best practices in child development. The Department of Child and Family Studies operates child development centers on or near the Hattiesburg and Gulf Park campuses. These centers serve as the laboratory and field placement sites for students enrolled in our CD lab courses and as the primary site for the CD 455 practicum course. The Center for Child Development (CCD) on the Hattiesburg campus is licensed to serve 105 children, ages eight weeks to five years old. The Gulf Coast Center for Child Development (GCCCD) is located on the Pass Christian Elementary and Middle School campus and is licensed to serve 75 children, ages eight weeks to five years old.

Requests for additional practicum opportunities, not to exceed more than half (300 hours) of the total hours requirement (600), are approved through the department chair, child development program coordinator and CD 455 instructor and may include public pre-K and kindergarten settings for those interested in pursuing child development special licensure through the Mississippi Department of Education.
THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES

The Bachelor of Science degree in the Child and Family Studies program is accredited by the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. The child development emphasis is approved by the National Council on Family Relations as meeting the standards and criteria required for approval as a Provisional Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE).

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission is open to all students who meet the general requirements for admission to the university. Students already attending the university must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 to transfer into the Child and Family Studies program. Consult the undergraduate bulletin or visit our website for specific information on entrance requirements and application procedures.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Department of Child and Family Studies is to educate and inspire students to improve the lives of children, families and communities. The department emphasizes a systemic approach that prepares students to become child and family human service professionals and education professionals.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Bachelor of Science degree in child and family studies with a child development emphasis prepares students for positions of leadership in the public, private and nonprofit sectors.

As professionals serving children and families, our graduates are equipped to design, implement and assess developmentally effective and inclusive programs for culturally diverse populations. Graduates choose careers as state-licensed pre-K and kindergarten educators, early childhood practitioners and consultants, administrators of early childhood programs, and advocates for children and families.