FACULTY

CFS faculty are committed to the following:

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

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

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 THE QR CODE
TO VISIT OUR SITE!

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"This program is really special because not only has it helped me grow as an individual, but it has helped me to help others as well. Everyone in our program is genuine and truly passionate about making a difference in the world!"

- LAMYIA NIX, FAMILY RELATIONS 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

"The faculty and staff in our department give us the tools to be successful in whatever life challenges and future goals we choose to pursue."

- KATHRYN DEFATTA, FAMILY RELATIONS EMPHASIS
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Family social services
  - Child protective services
  - Adoption agencies
  - Foster parent programs
  - Domestic violence intervention
- At-risk children and youth programs
- Mental health facilities
- Substance abuse outreach and prevention
- Case management services
- Health care and family wellness programs
- Nonprofit agencies
- Faith-based organizations
- Government and public policy programs
- Educational institutions
- Community programs education, assessment and evaluation
- Military family support services

GENERAL INFORMATION

Course work 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.

PRACTICUM PLACEMENTS

- Pine Belt Mental Health Care Resources
- Petal School District Center for Parents and Children
- Boys and Girls Club
- Memorial Behavioral Health
- YMCA
- DREAM Inc.
- Jackson County Youth Court
- Domestic Abuse Family Services
- Child Abuse Prevention Center
- Southeast Mississippi Rural Health Initiative
- After-School Programs
- Department of Human Services

ADVANCED DEGREES

Graduates are prepared for advanced graduate study in a variety of disciplines:

- Marriage and Family Therapy
- Family Studies and Child Development
- Human Growth and Development
- Psychology
- Other Social Science-Related Fields
THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES

The Bachelor of Science in child and family studies is accredited by the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. The family relations 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 and education professionals.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Bachelor of Science degree in child and family studies with a family relations emphasis prepares students for exciting and challenging careers in educational, institutional and human service organizations.

As human service professionals, graduates provide effective prevention and intervention services to diverse populations. Graduates choose careers that provide opportunities to assist at-risk teens, administer substance abuse outreach, provide child protective services, serve as mental health case managers, and effectively evaluate community needs.