The Master of Arts in Human Development and Family Studies provides students with advanced knowledge in the fields of family sciences and human development and the opportunity to develop multidisciplinary research and community outreach skills. Graduates are prepared for leadership and teaching positions in the social services, junior and community colleges, cooperative extension and/or for pursuing doctoral-level study. Coursework enables students to apply to become Certified Family Life Educators through the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR).

**Program Overview:** Courses focus on current research and practice in human development and family studies with an emphasis on family theories and processes, family life education, the reciprocal influences of family, school, work, and community contexts, development across the lifespan, and the strengths and needs of diverse populations.

The program emphasizes both basic and applied research. Student participation in interdisciplinary research and community outreach projects is encouraged. All students are required to complete either a Master’s Thesis or a Master’s Project and a minimum of 32 graduate semester-hour credits.

**Faculty Highlights:** Faculty are engaged in current research in a wide range of areas including: family caregiving/custodial grandparenting, family stress in midlife and later life families, health disparities in marginalized youth, training and development of human services workers, positive youth development and the effectiveness of bereavement camps for children and adolescents, global competency of HDFS students, and career development of HDFS students and alumni.

**Additional Certificates:** There are optional graduate certificate programs available to supplement the M.A. in HDFS administered through the KSU College of Education, Health, and Human Services including: Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE); Graduate Certificate in Gerontology; Certificate on Disability Studies and Community Inclusion; Behavior Intervention Specialist Certificate; and Autism Spectrum Intervention Specialist Certificate

**Representative Employment Positions of Recent Graduates include:**
- Program Specialist, Ohio State University Extension Administration
- Diversity Research Specialist, Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Kent State University
- Family Support Coordinator, Westside Ecumenical Ministry
- Even Start Program Director
- Director of Center for Aging Initiatives, Cuyahoga Community College
- Student Activities and Programs Specialist, Laramie County Community College
- Graduate Research Associate, University of Arizona
- Graduate Assistant, Health Education Program, Kent State University

**Graduate Assistantship:** Prospective students who attend the Summer Experience for Emerging Diverse Scholars will be eligible to apply for a select Graduate Assistantship in HDFS, which provides a full tuition waiver and a monthly stipend.

**Admission Requirements:** Successful applicants will have a GPA of 3.0 or above; strong letters of recommendation from faculty who can attest to the applicant’s potential for success in graduate school, and a thoughtful, well-written goals statement that clearly describes the applicant’s preparation and goals for pursuing graduate study in HDFS.

For more information please visit our website: [http://www.kent.edu/ehhs/hdfs/degrees/graduate/index.cfm](http://www.kent.edu/ehhs/hdfs/degrees/graduate/index.cfm)