The Human Development and Family Studies Program offers an interdisciplinary approach to individual and family development across the lifespan. We focus on child and adolescent development, adult development and aging, biological/social/psychological aspects of human development, family processes, intervention research and developmental research methods. We prepare students for careers that focus on helping diverse individuals and families to flourish in a global society. We do this by providing excellent teaching, research, and community outreach intended to strengthen families and promote optimal development from birth through late life.

The baccalaureate degree program in human development and family studies provides students with an understanding of human development and family relationships across the lifespan. The human development and family studies curriculum prepares graduates for professional careers related to working with children, youth, adults and families in social and human service settings.

Core coursework focuses on lifespan development (from infancy through old age) and family issues and processes. All students complete an internship or practicum as part of their academic requirements. Each student selects one of six available concentrations: child and youth development, family life education, case management for individuals and families, gerontology, nursing home administration and human services technology (available only for associate degree students).

Visit our website: www.kent.edu/ehhs/hdfs

CHILD AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT:
Prepares students for working with children and youth in nonschool settings, such as: residential treatment, group care, community youth services, foster care and after-school programs. The curriculum is aligned with professional competencies established by the Child and Youth Care Certification Board Inc. and prepares students for provisional certification as child and youth care professionals.

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION:
Prepares students for providing educational programming to parents, couples and families in settings such as domestic violence and homeless shelters, social services agencies, Head Start and Help Me Grow programs. The curriculum was developed using the standards set by the National Council on Family Relations to enable graduates to apply to become Certified Family Life Educators (CFLE). The CFLE designation provides documentation of the high-quality of the academic and professional preparation that graduates of the Human Development and Family Studies Program receive.

CASE MANAGEMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES:
Provides training for performing assessment, advocacy and case management in a variety of social services settings such as county departments of job and family services, rehabilitation centers, juvenile court and area agencies on aging.

GERONTOLOGY:
A concentration in gerontology prepares graduates for professional positions in the diverse field of aging. The gerontology curriculum is designed to provide students with a solid understanding of typical age-related changes and how those changes affect a person physiologically, psychologically and socially.

NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATION:
The nursing home administration program at Kent State is focused on preparing you to become a successful professional in the field of long-term health care. The job market for graduates is very strong due to the rapidly increasing number of aging Americans. The number of older adults living in nursing homes, assisted living and retirement communities is predicted to double in the next 10 years. Visit our website: www.kent.edu/ehhs/hdfs.

HUMAN SERVICES TECHNOLOGY:
This concentration is available only to students who have completed the associate degree in human services technology at Kent State University at Salem.

SPECIAL EDUCATION
The Special Education Program is dedicated to preparing tomorrow’s teachers of exceptional learners. The program consists of three teacher licensure areas for ages 5 through 21: deaf education, mild/moderate educational needs and moderate/intensive educational needs. We also offer the baccalaureate degree in. The ASL/English Interpreting major prepares students to work with children and adults who have hearing loss or are deaf. The interpreting courses and instructors prepare students to interpret in educational and community settings. Graduates receive licensure from the state of Ohio to interpret in pre-K-12. Students also receive instruction and practice necessary to interpret in community settings, including medical and mental health venues, social service offices, job sites, and universities to name a few.
The National Center on Personnel Studies in Special Education reports a critical national shortage of special education teachers, administrators and related personnel. More than 50,000 teachers are needed to solve this shortage, with 98 percent of the nation’s largest school districts reporting shortages. Jobs await you in Ohio and across the country. Visit our website www.kent.edu/ehhs/ldes.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS
The School of Lifespan Development and Educational Sciences offers graduate degree programs leading to master’s degrees in the following areas: clinical mental health counseling, gerontology, human development and family studies, instructional technology, rehabilitation counseling, school counseling and special education. The educational specialist degree is available in counseling and human development services, school psychology and special education. The Doctor of Philosophy degree is offered in counseling and human development services, educational psychology, school psychology and special education. Visit our website for information on our graduate programs: www.kent.edu/ehhs/ldes.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

CENTER FOR INNOVATION IN TRANSITION AND EMPLOYMENT
The Center for Innovation in Transition and Employment provides leadership in the College of Education, Health and Human Services and across the region for developing successful transition practices which lead to positive outcomes for people with disabilities. Organizationally, the center administers transition, personal development and demonstration grants and serves as an interdepartmental collaborative that supports interdisciplinary activities across special education, career and technical education and rehabilitation. With almost 20 years of experience in providing interdisciplinary programs in transition, the center developed many collaborative relationships for developing new and experienced teachers, coordinators and leadership personnel.

NONPROFIT STUDIES PROGRAM
Nonprofit organizations play an increasingly important role in society at the local, national and international levels. Those organizations need employees who are prepared to meet the needs of the diverse population being served. Through this program of study, students pursuing an undergraduate degree in any academic area are able to gain knowledge and skills which will enhance their employability at the approximately 1.9 million nonprofit organizations in the United States, as well as at the numerous international and global nonprofits. Students can choose to take these classes as electives or pursue a Minor in Nonprofit Studies (NPST). The minor can be completed entirely online, with the exception of a three credit hour internship which must be completed at a nonprofit organization.

COUNSELING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER
The Counseling and Human Development Center provides personal counseling and human development services to members of the Kent State University community (students, faculty, staff and family members) and to area residents. Services provided include individual, couple, family, child and group counseling for developmentally-related concerns. Counseling sessions are FREE to the Kent State community; a nominal fee is charged to the public. The fee can be waived if necessary. Services are provided by master’s- and doctoral-level graduate students preparing for professional licensure as clinical counselors.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER
The Human Development Center provides graduate and undergraduate students the opportunity to participate in interdisciplinary research and community service projects. Projects sponsored by the Human Development Center focus on all stages of the life span.

The Center for Disability Studies is an interdisciplinary institute whose mission is to promote a full understanding of the lived experience of disability across the life span. The center is composed of 16 federal and private foundation projects, with a budget of approximately $2.7 million. Faculty members, graduate students and project staff in special education, school psychology and rehabilitation counseling are currently affiliated with the center. Projects include research, personnel preparation, demonstration and community service initiatives, and they feature such topics as deaf education, inclusion of children with disabilities in public schools, early childhood special education, multiple sclerosis, job development and placement services, psychiatric rehabilitation, educational and vocational assessment, interpreter training, transition from school to work, and post-secondary education and disability. For more information, contact Dr. Phil Rumrill at prurnrill@kent.edu.