Vision of the Family & Child Studies Program

Enhancing the lives of children and families through inter-related theory, research, and practice that address the diverse and complex nature of their futures.

Mission of the Family & Child Studies Program

Our mission is to foster an interdisciplinary scholarly environment that enables early childhood professionals, family service providers, and researchers in the field of family and child study to

- cultivate and disseminate systematic information and grounded knowledge about the diverse nature of families in contemporary societies
- understand and critically respond to the dynamic complexities of human development across the lifespan
- foster leadership in addressing the multiple facets of early childhood development

Program/Department/College

Family and Child Studies offers degree programs that reflect the role of diverse families in New Mexico's multicultural environment and in a global world. Throughout their evolution, programs have focused on learning across the developmental stages of the life cycle. Within the context of the mission and core values of the College of Education, the Department of Individual, Family and Community Education, the Family and Child Studies Program prepares professionals who will work in educational, social service and public policy environments to facilitate individual and family well-being. The family provides the child's first learning environment, and this environment impacts the child's education and learning throughout life.

The interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary emphasis in Family and Child Studies includes knowledge in four domains. The four domains are: Sociocultural Diversity, Family Life Education, Human Development and Family Relations, and Early Childhood Education and Development. This knowledge base provides graduates with professional competence for careers in family related programs, in academic, social service and policy institutions. Theory testing, inquiry and reflective practices undergird the Family and Child Studies curricula.

Graduate Application and Admission Process

Deadline Dates: Fall admission = February 15th, Spring admission = September 15th

The Program requirements for the MA program include:

1. UNM’s Online Graduate Application (completed electronically). Link: [http://grad.unm.edu/prospective-students/apply-now.html](http://grad.unm.edu/prospective-students/apply-now.html)
2. Application Fee (paid online).
3. All Official Transcripts from any institution/college you took courses at will need to be sent to the UNM Office of Admissions. The UNM Transcript can be Unofficial. Please ATTACH an Unofficial copy of all transcripts to your online application in the Education section so that the faculty can review your coursework.
4. Please complete the FCS MA PROGRAM Application form and upload it to the Special Requirements section of your online application.
5. Personal Statement. Letter of Intent is your personal statement describing your academic training, interest in the field, and career objectives. It must be typed, double-spaced, 10-12 pt. font, 3 pages max. Upload to the Letter of Intent section.
6. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (LOR) Ratings Form. Three references are required. You will need to provide the names and email addresses of references in your online application. They will be sent a link from UNM/Hobson’s to complete the LOR Ratings Form and to ATTACH a Letter of Support. Once they complete this,
they will submit the documentation via the link and it will be uploaded to your online application. While letters from current or former full time faculty are desired, it is recognized that this is not always possible. Thus, it is acceptable to invite other individuals to serve as a reference. They must be professional (e.g., supervisor, colleague) and not personal references (e.g., friend, family member).

**Requirements.** Students are expected to have an overall GPA of 3.0 or 3.0 in the last 60 hours of undergraduate study. Other admission criteria are relevant coursework and multicultural experience/education. Students from academic backgrounds other than Family & Child Studies are strongly encouraged to apply. The admission committee comprised of full-time FCS faculty independently review and rate each applicant based on the materials submitted. Following discussion of these ratings and resultant score by the faculty on the admission committee, a vote is taken to finalize admission decision for an applicant. The Department and the Office of Graduate Studies communicate the resulting decision to the applicant.

**The Program requirements for the PhD program include:**

1. UNM’s Online **Graduate Application** (completed electronically). Link: [http://grad.unm.edu/prospective-students/apply-now.html](http://grad.unm.edu/prospective-students/apply-now.html)
2. **Application Fee** (paid online).
3. **ALL Official Transcripts** from any institution/college you took courses at will need to be sent to the UNM Office of Admissions. The UNM Transcript can be Unofficial. Please ATTACH an Unofficial copy of all transcripts to your online application in the Education section so that the faculty can review your coursework.
4. Please complete the **FCS PHD PROGRAM Application** form and upload it to the **Special Requirements** section of your online application.
5. **Research Statement.** Letter of Intent is your research statement describing your anticipated doctoral research focus, academic training, interest in the field, and career objectives. It must be typed, double-spaced, 10-12 pt. font, 5 pages max. Upload to the **Letter of Intent** section.
6. **Three (3) Letters of Recommendation** (LOR) Ratings Form. Three references are required. You will need to provide the names and email addresses of references in your online application. They will be sent a link from UNM/Hobson’s to complete the LOR Ratings Form and to ATTACH a Letter of Support. Once they complete this, they will submit the documentation via the link and it will be uploaded to your online application. While letters from current or former full time faculty are desired, it is recognized that this is not always possible. Thus, it is acceptable to invite other individuals to serve as a reference. They must be professional (e.g., supervisor, colleague) and not personal references (e.g., friend, family member).
7. **GRE Scores.** Upload to the **Test** section the original copy of your GRE scores (Verbal, Quantitative, and Analytical sections) taken within 5 years from the date of application. The GRE is required of all applicants and a combined score of 302 (out of 340) on the verbal reasoning and quantitative reasoning scales generally is required for admission. Applicants also must take the analytical portion of the GRE.

**Requirements.** Applicants are expected to have a master’s degree or its equivalent in a related area. An applicant is expected to have an overall graduate/master’s GPA of 3.2 and 3.0 in the last 60 hours of undergraduate study. Students from academic backgrounds other than Family and Child Studies are also encouraged to apply. Other admission criteria are relevant coursework, related work experience, and multicultural experience/education. Following discussion of these ratings and resultant score by the faculty on the admission committee, a vote is taken to finalize admission decision for an applicant. The FCS admission committee will determine if a personal interview with an applicant is needed before making the final decision about admission. The Department and the Office of Admissions communicate the resulting decision to the application.
Note: An international graduate applicant must check with the Office of Global Education at UNM for additional requirements and documents such as English Proficiency Test Score (e.g., IELTS, TOEFL), financial proofs, health insurance. Email: goglobal@unm.edu.