

TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY
Department of Family Sciences
Ph.D. in Family Studies

90 hours (beyond the Bachelor's degree) + 2 Research Tools or competencies

PREREQUISITES: Master's degree in Family Studies or a related field and successful completion of the courses listed below.

Coursework equivalent to the following Master's level courses:

FS 5003 Lifespan Human Development

FS 5123 Theories of the Family

FS 5693 Research Methods

FS 5193 Statistics for Family Sciences (Formerly FS 5903-Statistics)

DOCTORAL CORE: (12 hours)

FS 6003 Advanced Study of the Lifespan

FS 6403 Theory Building in Family Sciences

FS 6413 Current Research and Issues in Family Sciences

FS 6423 Readings in Family Sciences

RESEARCH: (15 hours)

FS 6693 Advanced Quantitative Research Methods in Family Sciences

FS 6793 Advanced Qualitative Research Methods in Family Sciences

Doctoral level Statistics

FS 6983/93 Dissertation

PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES: (6 hours)

Two of the following:

FS 5663 Leadership and Staff Development in Family Sciences Programs

FS 5803 Time Management for Families

FS 5843 Teaching Family Sciences

FS 6433 Grants Writing in Family Sciences

FS 6593 Practicum in Family Sciences

CONTENT SPECIALIZATION: (30 hours)

Students choose appropriate coursework in consultation with the student's advisory committee based on individual needs, academic and professional background, and goals. Some courses selected may be outside the Department of Family Sciences.

Application of Course Credit to Graduate Degrees in Family Studies: The Family Studies graduate programs do not accept course work credit for courses accomplished before admission to the program. This standard means that courses taken as “non-degree seeking” or while in a different graduate major cannot be applied to the graduate degree of M.S. or Ph.D.

After admission to the Ph.D. program, a student may submit transcript(s) from a Master’s degree program for consideration for application toward the doctorate. Only courses that were taken as part of a completed M.S. degree will be considered. (This is commonly called credits from an “intact Master’s.”)

Assignment of Advisors, Major Professor, and Degree Plan Committee: Upon acceptance to the doctoral program, a student will be assigned to an initial advisor who will assist in course selection for the first 18 hours. Following successful completion of the First Year Qualifying Exam, the student may request assignment to a permanent advisor (Major Professor). That advisor and the student will select and invite a Degree Plan Committee. Students are required to have on their degree plan committee a minimum of two faculty members from their program component. After the successful completion of the comprehensive examination, the student will invite three faculty members to serve on the Dissertation Committee.

All degree plans must comply with graduate school requirements as presented in the catalog. At a minimum, programs must consist of 90 graduate credit hours, which include 30 hours of research coursework (dissertation, research methods, statistics, etc.). The university-required research tools (12 hours) are in addition to the minimum 90 graduate credit hours.

First Year Qualifying Examination: A set of objective tests will be offered each academic year and must be successfully passed by Family Studies doctoral students before completion of 18 hours of course work. The examination consists of objective tests in the areas of human development, family theories, research methodology, and statistics. All tests must be completed in one 4-hour sitting. An acceptable passing score is required for each test. One re-take is allowed. All scores will be forwarded to an advisory committee for program continuation approval.

Comprehensive Exams: Before advancing to candidacy, doctoral students must successfully complete written and oral comprehensive exams as outlined in the Graduate Catalog.

Grades: No grade below B will count toward the degree. The Advisor or Major Professor may call for a review of the student’s transcript if the student earns an F in any course or more than one grade below B. Doctoral students are expected to promptly notify the Advisor or Major Professor about grades other than A or B.

Research Tools: Research tools are requirements beyond the 90 hours required for Family Studies doctoral degrees. The student will demonstrate competency or take 6 graduate hours in each of 2 areas: foreign language other than their native language; computer science (CSCI 5783, CSCI 5793 or CSCI 5893); statistics beyond courses in degree plan; information retrieval (LS 5553 and LS 5533.30; or a pair of courses from FS 6903 Academic Life and Scholarship, FS 6903 Professional Writing, or FS 6903 Effective Online Teaching.

Seminars: Doctoral students in Family Studies are required to attend at least 3 seminars each calendar year. Opportunities are listed on the department website.

Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE): For courses meeting requirements for eligibility toward becoming a CFLE through the National Council on Family Relations, see department website.