HDFS Student Organizations

All for Autism
In 2013, we welcomed a new student group to campus - All for Autism. Through monthly meetings and annual events, this group works to increase autism awareness on Purdue’s main campus and to support local families raising children diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. For information and to join please visit our Boilerlink page: https://boilerlink.purdue.edu/organization/AllForAutism
Advisor: A. J. Schwichtenberg, 496-2780, ajschwichtenberg@purdue.edu

Human Development and Family Studies Club (HDFSC)
The Human Development and Family Studies Club serves the social, professional development, and service needs of undergraduate students with majors, minors, or interest in the HDFS Department.
Advisor: Deb Nichols, 49-60137, deborahnichols@purdue.edu

Purdue Student Unit of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, Indiana Affiliate
This organization promotes the mission of the profession of family and consumer sciences which is to improve the quality of life for individuals and families. Membership is open to anyone in the College of Health and Human Sciences.
Advisor: Carol Werhan, 49-47291, cwerhan@purdue.edu
Welcome, new and prospective students, to the Human Development and Family Studies Department! Our department is a relatively small one, where you will have the chance to get to know your fellow students and your professors. We’re an interdisciplinary department, which means that we use a wide variety of perspectives and methods in our work, but we all share interests in human development, families, and health and well-being. We also tend to emphasize applied research and intervention. So, if you are interested in working with people and making a difference in their lives, this may be the place for you!

If you have questions about the HDFS department or any of our majors, please contact one of our undergraduate academic advisors: Jennifer Rosselet Wilkins, Matthews Hall, Room 117, (765) 49-48533, e-mail: jrosselo@purdue.edu or Jessica Woeppel, Marriott Hall, Room 135B, (765) 496-3085, e-mail: jwoeppel@purdue.edu.

**Early Childhood Education and Exceptional Needs**

In this program, students gain knowledge and skills for careers in education and intervention programs for young children (birth through third grade) and their families. Students gain hands-on experience through practicum courses in the Ben and Maxine Miller Child Development Laboratory School within the department and with local educational programs in the community, in addition to a full semester of student teaching. Graduates are prepared to be teachers in infant, toddler, and preschool classrooms; early elementary classrooms (K-3); and classrooms for children with exceptional needs (through grade three).

**Developmental and Family Science**

The DVFS curriculum provides tremendous flexibility and choices for students interested in people and their well-being. Students receive a broad education in human development and family studies, with many opportunities for specialization, including optional concentrations in child development or family and community health. The culminating experience of the major is a capstone experience, designed by the student from among three choices: an internship, a research thesis, or a study abroad experience. The DVFS major leads to a variety of career options, including direct service to children, adults, and/or families; program and policy development; and advanced study (e.g., public health, gerontology, pediatrics, family law, HDFS, developmental psychology, etc.).

**Family and Consumer Sciences Education**

FCS educators make a difference in the lives of young people by helping middle and high school students become independent, assume family and community roles, and succeed in the workplace. Graduates meet all requirements for Indiana teacher licensure, which also qualifies them for licensure in most other states. Students in this major take a wide variety of courses in human development, nutrition, hospitality and tourism, personal finance, textiles and fashion, and other areas. School-based experiences begin as early as the second semester at Purdue. The culminating experience is a semester of full-time student teaching with two placements: 8 weeks in a middle school and 8 weeks in a high school.

**Human Services**

If you are interested in working with people to help improve their life circumstances, the Human Services major may be an excellent choice for you. Students in this major are concerned about today’s individuals and families and want to help them find solutions to challenging circumstances. Students develop knowledge and theory in human development and family studies as well as practical skills that allow them to meet the needs of clients of all ages and backgrounds. The culminating experience in this major is an internship with a human service agency. This internship is usually completed in the last or next-to-last semester of study, and can be done in the fall, spring, or summer semester.