

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
WSU Child and Family Studies Department
Family Studies Program Self-Study Document, Fall 2023

Author's Contact Information:

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The following is a summary of the self-study document, highlighting important points. For complete information, please refer to the full, self-study document itself.

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Department of Child and Family Studies is to utilize contemporary educational practices to prepare students to become Early Childhood and Family Life Educators who respect diversity, use culturally competent practices, and apply their knowledge to create environments that enhance the lives and healthy development of adults, children, and families over the lifespan.

Curriculum:

The Family Studies Program (B.S.) constantly reviews curriculum and updates courses, including: 1) adding 3 new courses, 2) developing additional online courses, 3) offering courses at the Davis Campus, 4) establishing partnerships with community agencies and organizations for student practicum and learning experiences, and 5) providing workshops and training for students to become approved instructors in parenting and relationship education curricula. All Family Studies courses use 11 substance areas of the Certified Family Life Education credential to assess student competency and learning outcomes.

Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment:

Students in the Family Studies Program are assessed on their competency and proficiency in 11 substance areas of the NCFR Certified Family Life Education credential. Students in the Senior Seminar course (CHF 4990B) are required to take the CFLE exam in their last semester to evaluate their knowledge and mastery of the 11 content areas for Family Life Education. The vast majority of students demonstrate competency in these 11 areas.

Academic Advising:

Academic advising in the Family Studies Program is provided in multiple ways: 1) full-time Child and Family Studies academic advisor in the department, 2) a faculty advisor assigned to every major, 3) graduation maps revised annually, 4) College of Education full-time recruiter, 5) concurrent enrollment days hosted by the department every fall and spring semester, 6) mentoring relationships between faculty and students in research and other professional development projects, 7) Child and Family Studies Student Association, and many more. Advising is viewed as an ongoing process aimed at helping students utilize the University's resources to succeed in reaching their academic goals.

Faculty:

All full-time faculty members in the Family Studies Program (except Mosiah Gonzalez who is, as of the writing of this document, completing his dissertation) hold a Ph.D. degree in Family Science, Marriage and Family Therapy, Family and Consumer Sciences, or a closely related field. They are held to the Moyes College of Education teaching standards and policies and procedures for tenure and promotion. All adjunct instructors are required to hold a minimum of a Master's degree except Karah Bryan whose specialization as a Certified Child Life Specialist allows her to teach our CLS course (FAM 4450).

Program Support:

The Family Studies Program receives adequate support from administrative staff (a full-time academic advisor and a full-time administrative specialist), facilities, equipment, and library resources.

Relations with External Community:

The Family Studies Program has developed strong connections and partnerships with multiple programs, organizations, and agencies in the external community, including:

- The Families Alive Conference
- The Human Trafficking Symposium
- The Department of Child and Family Studies Community Advisory Board
- Weber State University Family Literacy Program
- Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education Program
- The Treehouse Children's Museum in Ogden, Utah
- The Utah Marriage Commission (UMC)
- The Utah Council on Family Relations (UTCFR)
- The National Council on Family Relations (NCFR)
- The Family Science Association
- Hill Air Force Base Airman Family Readiness Unit
- Boyd K. and Donna S. Packer Center for Family and Community Education

Student, Faculty, Contract/Adjunct Faculty and Staff Statistics:

Currently, there are 6 full-time faculty members (2 full professors, 2 associate professor, and 2 assistant professors), 2 full-time administrative staff, and 6 adjunct instructors in the Family Studies Program. Family Studies majors have ranged from 253 to 309 in the past five academic years. Number of program graduates was 50 in the 2022-2023 Academic Year.

Results of Previous Program Reviews:

Based on the previous program review in 2018-2019, the following issues were identified as far as the Family Studies Program was concerned and have been addressed proactively.

- More students have been requesting/needing online options for our required courses.
- There has not been a formal process for providing young faculty mentoring.
- Low salaries continue to be supplemented with teaching overloads, detracting from the department's ability to recruit and maintain faculty and may promote burnout. Extra teaching load may inhibit scholarship service accomplishment.

Information Regarding Current Review Team Members:

Reviewer 1: TBD

Reviewer 2: TBD