The bachelor of science degree in Family Social Science will prepare you to understand families from an interdisciplinary and multicultural perspective. Coursework is enhanced with community-based and career-focused experiential learning experiences that give you the opportunity to apply new knowledge and practice new skills in a supportive environment.

In the Family Social Science major, you can choose from two concentrations: Family & Community Engagement to work directly with families in community settings and Family Therapy that will prepare you for entry-level clinical work, or for advanced study in marriage and family therapy, or a practitioner certification, such as a parent education teaching license.

You will be well-prepared to work with families in professional environments, or continue on to graduate study with several master's and PhD programs in family science, prevention science or couple and family therapy. Explore them here: http://www.cehd.umn.edu/fsos/programs/index.html.
“I knew I wanted to do something with counseling so I tested out some different courses, and family social science was the best. To understand family dynamics and have knowledgeable faculty teach you theory that can be related to reality—that sparked my interest.” Julie Vang, B.S. 2016

Student Experiences

The Family Social Science Undergraduate Roundtable is an undergraduate student organization established to create community within the Department, provide networking opportunities, promote healthy relationships, provide hands on experience in community service and involvement, and encourage socialization with peers and faculty.

Study Abroad Options

Learn about study abroad options for Family Social Science majors at http://umabroad.umn.edu/students/maps/cehd/familyss.

Meet Our Faculty
Tabitha Grier-Reed is a Professor in the Department of Family Social Science. In 2016, she received the University’s prestigious Morse-Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Award, citing her commitment to inclusive pedagogy, intellectual rigor, supportive peer advising, and research.

Meet Our Alumni

“My advisers and professors took the time to get to know me and always offered to help support me in any capacity they could. I would often go to coffee with my professors or stay after class to chat. Having those relationships really had a positive impact on how I viewed myself and my future work. They encouraged my learning and inspired me to challenge myself by learning new perspectives through volunteering, internships, and research.” Rose Simon, Class of 2017
You might also explore

Family Violence Prevention Minor
Social Justice Minor
Early Childhood
Child Psychology
Psychology
Sociology
Youth Studies

Associated Careers

Child life specialist, Counselor, Couple and family therapist, Financial counselor, Nonprofit organizations, Social and human services

Admission Information

Freshman admission information.

Transfer admission requirements for the College of Education and Human Development.