

CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES

What can I do with this major?

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
<u>PRE-SCHOOL/DAY CARE</u> Teaching Parent-Child Education Administration: Curriculum Development Training Management	Private, public, franchise and corporate day care centers Pre-schools Montessori schools Religious organizations Extended school programs Recreation programs Health clubs Private homes Family day care Federal, state and local government: Department of Health and Human Services Head Start	Obtain experience working with children through volunteer, intern or part-time positions. Demonstrate patience, creativity and the ability to work well with people of various backgrounds. Develop strong communications skills to deal effectively with students, staff and parents. Acquire appropriate certification, such as Child Development Associate (CDA) or Pre-K licensure for some pre-school settings. Certification varies by state. Note that some private employers seek staff whose religious values match their organizations' missions.
<u>EDUCATION</u> Teaching: Early Childhood Education Early Childhood Special Education Home Economics Family and Consumer Sciences Curriculum Development Research Counseling Administration College Student Affairs	Public and private schools (K-12) Public pre-school programs (Head Start) Private pre-school programs Montessori schools Adult education programs Extension offices Colleges and universities	Develop excellent interpersonal, public speaking and writing skills. Learn to work well with different types of people. Gain experience working with a target age group through mentoring, tutoring or volunteering with a school-based organization. Serve as a peer mentor, resident assistant or student advisor to cultivate leadership and communication skills. Join student chapters of national teaching organizations. Acquire appropriate certification for public school (and some private school) teaching positions, which varies by state. Obtain graduate degree for counseling, student affairs and administrative positions. A master's degree may be sufficient for teaching at community or two-year institutions. Pursue a Ph.D. for college and university teaching and research opportunities.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
<u>SOCIAL SERVICES</u> Case Management Counseling Advocacy Program Development Community Education Volunteer Coordination Administration Research Evaluation Fundraising Public Relations Grant Writing	Community centers Youth services agencies/ programs Family services agencies/ programs (financial, family planning, health and wellness, marriage, vocational, food/housing assistance, military family support) Senior citizens programs Nursing homes Assisted living facilities Rehabilitation organizations Group homes Half-way houses Mediation centers Consulting firms Consumer protection agencies Adoption agencies Federal, state and local government including: Department of Health and Human Services: Administration on Aging Administration for Children and Families Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration Health Resources & Services Administration Department of Veterans Affairs Department of Justice: Probation and parole offices Correctional facilities	Exhibit a desire to help others, along with communication and organizational skills. Seek experience as a volunteer, intern or paid employee with social service or non-profit organizations. Become familiar with government and community resources available for those in need. Develop a wide range of skills such as presenting, grant writing and fundraising, as professionals in nonprofit organizations may fill multiple roles in their positions. Learn to work well with different types of people from varying socioeconomic, racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds. Supplement curriculum with courses in social work, sociology or psychology. Pursue additional coursework to specialize in an area or with a certain population such as addiction, gerontology, child welfare, etc. Consider earning Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) credential through the National Council on Family Relations. Become familiar with government hiring procedures. Obtain a master's degree and appropriate licensure in mental health counseling, social work or rehabilitation counseling to provide therapy. Earn a graduate degree for greater access to administrative positions.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
<u>ADVOCACY</u> Domestic and International Advocacy Humanitarian Services, i.e. human rights, family planning, world health, disaster relief Development: Economic Community Housing Policy Development Program Administration Fundraising/Development Volunteer Coordination Grant Writing	Community action agencies Nonprofit organizations Private voluntary organizations Faith based organizations (FBO's) and churches International aid and relief organizations NGO's (Non-governmental Organizations), i.e. Action Aid, Oxfam, International Red Cross Federal government agencies with International focus: Peace Corps, USAID, Foreign Service (State Department) Community assistance focus: Housing and Urban Development, Department of Health and Human Services State and local government agencies	Demonstrate strong desire to help others. Volunteer at social service agencies to gain experience and demonstrate interest. Participate in campus "alternative break" trips or church-led mission trips to gain experience assisting groups in need. Pursue leadership roles in campus and community advocacy organizations, and learn how to motivate individuals and groups. Develop excellent research, writing, communication and organizational skills; fundraising experience may be helpful for some positions. Complete an internship with a government organization in area of interest. Research federal, state and local job application procedures.
<u>HEALTHCARE</u> Hospital Based Family Support/Child Life Services (provide emotional support, educate children and families, identify resources, coordinate events) Health, Nutrition, Safety Education Advocacy	Hospitals Doctors' offices Healthcare facilities Specialized camps/schools Hospice programs Funeral homes Social service organizations Public health programs Federal, state and local government including: Department of Health and Human Services: Administration on Aging Administration for Children and Families Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration Health Resources & Services Administration	Volunteer in a healthcare setting such as a hospital or specialized children's camp. Develop a high comfort level working in clinical environments with children and families under stress. Acquire strong communication skills, and plan to work on interdisciplinary teams of doctors, nurses, counselors, etc. who provide care to children. Obtain Child Life Specialist certification through the Child Life Council, and be willing to relocate for greater access to positions in children's hospitals. Prepare to work nights, weekends and holidays in some healthcare settings. Earn a master's degree in social work, counseling, nutrition, public health or related area for increased opportunities.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
<u>BUSINESS</u> Market Research Product Testing Product Development Management Sales Customer Service	Manufacturing companies of children's clothes, toys, furniture and food Consumer protection agencies Department and retail stores Social service organizations with business components, i.e. tax assistance, financial planning	Demonstrate initiative, attention to detail, organization and problem-solving skills. Learn to communicate effectively with a wide-range of people. Consider taking interpersonal communication and public speaking classes. Earn a business minor or supplement program with courses such as accounting, management, finance, etc. to increase understanding of business theory. Obtain sales/retail experience with companies catering to children's needs. Join business or retail student organizations and secure leadership positions.
<u>COMMUNICATIONS</u> Research Curriculum/Resource Development Journalism Writing Editing Public Relations	Organizations geared toward children and families including: Book publishers Radio and TV stations Newspapers Magazines Social service organizations Manufacturers Consumer protection agencies Professional associations	Develop excellent grammar and writing skills. Learn to think critically and research effectively. Take elective courses in the communications field such as journalism, broadcasting, public relations and advertising, or earn a minor in one area of interest. Obtain experience with a college newspaper, yearbook, alumni publication or with local radio or television stations. Compile a portfolio of writing samples, ad campaigns and other relevant work, especially those that have been published. Develop desktop publishing, webpage design and other computer skills. Online communication is increasing, while print is declining. Pursue an active role, preferably leadership, in journalism organizations. Prepare to work in deadline-oriented environments and to withstand criticism.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- A Bachelor's degree is sufficient for entry-level positions.
- Advanced degrees are essential for clinical and therapeutic counseling positions.
- The Child and Family Studies major can serve as preparation for students pursuing advanced training in other areas such as healthcare, i.e. pediatric nursing, family medicine; law, i.e. family law, elder law, child advocacy; and ministry, i.e. youth ministry, pastoral counseling. Research admissions requirements and take pre-requisite courses for programs of interest.
- A Master's degree or Ph.D. is often needed for administrative and supervisory positions.
- A Ph.D. is required for most college teaching and advanced research positions.
- Additional or specialized training qualifies one for higher paying opportunities and positions of greater responsibility.
- Obtain part-time, summer, internship or volunteer experience in child care, schools, hospitals, camps, or overseas programs or in advocacy or service-oriented programs addressing alcoholism, drug abuse, family violence, aging, poverty, disabilities, etc.
- Obtain certification for specialized areas including Child Life Specialist or Family Life Educator.