

Family & Consumer Sciences Education

Family and Consumer Sciences Education is a major in the College of Education and Human Ecology that meets requirements for Ohio teacher licensure in Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS). FCS educators empower individuals and families to manage challenges of living and working in a diverse, global society throughout their lives. The unique focus of this discipline is on families, work, and their relationships.

FCS teachers are often called Work & Family Life (W&FL) teachers in Ohio and they teach nutrition and wellness, parenting, personal development, family relations, life planning, and resource management in middle and high schools.

Students pursuing this interdisciplinary major take course work across the college in educational policy and leadership, family and consumer sciences education, family resource management, hospitality management, human development and family science, human nutrition, physical activity and educational services, teaching and learning, and fashion and retail studies.

Pursuing Family & Consumer Sciences Education at Ohio State

High School Students interested in this major should complete a college preparatory program in high school. Good written and verbal skills are very important. Experience with programs serving young children, youth, adults, and families in school and community settings is valuable and desirable.

All freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus. The primary criteria for admission are the completion of the applicant's high school college preparatory program, performance in that program as indicated by class rank and/or grade-point average, and performance on either the ACT or SAT.

Students who come to Ohio State to study Family and Consumer Sciences Education will be directly enrolled as a pre-Family and Consumer Sciences Education major in the School of Physical Activity & Educational Services (PAES) if they meet one of the following criteria: a minimum ACT composite score of 23, SAT combined Critical Reading and Math scores of 1030, or a rank in the top 35% of their high school class. Those students not eligible to directly enroll in Family and Consumer Sciences Education may enroll in the Exploration Program. To learn more, visit exploration.osu.edu.

To be considered for admission to the program, students must meet the following minimum criteria:

- A minimum 2.75 cumulative point-hour ratio (CPHR)
- Completion of 30 credit hours distributed over natural science, social science, and art and humanities
- C- or better in Math 104 or higher level math course
- Completion of English 110 and a literature course
- Satisfactory performance in the first field experience course

Family & Consumer Sciences Education Requirements

A minimum of 181 quarter hours are required to complete the Family and Consumer Sciences Education degree. The interdisciplinary curriculum requires course work from across the College of Education and Human Ecology. Content course work in which students learn the content of what they will be teaching is drawn from the departments of Human Development & Family Science, Consumer Sciences, and Human Nutrition. Students complete human development and family science course work on family development, child development, lifespan human development, and parenting. Consumer sciences course work includes consumer problems; family financial management; and fashion, the body, and popular culture. Course work in human nutrition focuses on the science of human nutrition and the fundamentals of food. Students will also select 15 additional credit hours chosen from course work in each of these departments to gain additional content knowledge. Through these additional courses, students have the option of earning a minor in Human Development and Family Science or Consumer Affairs as a built-in component of the curriculum.

Students also complete a core of education course work on the school and society, teaching reading across the curriculum, educational psychology, computer applications in education, and exceptional children. Finally, in the Family and Consumer Sciences Education course work, students will meet the following objectives:

- Study teaching methods specific to the secondary FCS curriculum
- Gain an understanding of problem-based instruction
- Learn how to construct culturally sensitive learning environments
- Complete three field experiences in school settings prior to student teaching

The field experiences are all in different school environments (suburban/urban, middle/high school) in order for students to experience diverse school settings in preparation for student teaching and their careers as teachers.

Co-Curricular Opportunities

Students in Family and Consumer Sciences Education have the opportunity to become involved in many enriching experiences outside the classroom. Leaders in Family and Consumer Sciences Education (LFCSE) is a student organization geared towards students with an interest in Family and Consumer Sciences Education. In addition to LFCSE, students are also able to get involved in the Ohio State Education Association, Kappa Phi Kappa (a co-ed education fraternity), and any of the hundreds of other organizations at Ohio State.

The Human Ecology Learning Community also provides an opportunity for students to interact with others who share their professional interests by living in a residence hall community with other students of the same major. Students in the learning

For more information, check these web sites:

Family and Consumer Sciences Education: ehe.osu.edu/fcsed

School of Physical Activity & Educational Sciences:
ehe.osu.edu/paes

College of Education and Human Ecology: ehe.osu.edu

Ohio State: osu.edu

Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu

Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu

First Year Experience: fye.osu.edu

Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student may take to pursue a degree in Family and Consumer Sciences Education. Since university students need more than specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete the General Education Curriculum (GEC). The GEC will allow students to develop the fundamental skills essential to collegiate success across major programs. Course work options satisfying the GEC often come from a variety of academic areas of study allowing students to tailor their GEC toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in Family and Consumer Sciences Education. Consult the departmental web site, ehe.osu.edu/fcsed, for details on each specific track.

Freshman Year:

Science of Human Nutrition	5
Economics	5
Introductory Sociology	5
Family Development	5
Lifespan Human Development	5
GEC (English composition)	5
Introductory Biology	5
GEC (math and logical analysis)	5
PAES Survey	1
GEC (arts and humanities)	5
Total hours	46

Sophomore Year:

FCS Field Experience	2
Child Development	5
Fashion, the Body, and Popular Culture	3
GEC (second writing course)	5
GEC (math and logical analysis)	5
GEC (arts and humanities courses)	15
GEC (natural sciences)	10
Total hours	45

Junior Year:

Teaching Reading across the Curriculum	3
Fundamentals of Food	5
School and Society	5
Family Financial Management	5
Parenting	3
Psychological Perspectives on Education	5
FCS Specialization Courses	15
Statistics	5
Total hours	46

Senior Year:

Introduction to Exceptional Children	3
Computer Applications in Education	4
Consumer Problems	5
Problem Based Learning	5
Instruction for Effective Learning	5
Accommodating Diversity	2
Workplace Education	3
Culturally Responsive Teaching	3
Teaching/Learning Context	2
Student Teaching	12
Total hours	44

community gain increased interaction with faculty members and upper-class students, and a stronger connection with the college. Ohio State also offers more than 100 study abroad programs in 40 countries around the world.

These opportunities enable students to gain valuable experience, learn about cultures, and take on leadership roles before entering the workforce, which may provide an advantage in the job market.

Honors & Scholars Opportunities

The College of Education and Human Ecology offers an honors program for students of high academic ability. The honors program allows for individualized program structured to meet students' learning objectives and provides an opportunity for students to work with faculty to design and perform research. Through an understanding of the core course work and effective research methods, this individualized plan of study helps students experience professional growth and increased knowledge. In addition to undergraduate research opportunities and close working relationships with faculty, honors students also have access to smaller classes, priority scheduling, and unique housing opportunities.

The Ohio State Scholars Programs feature close-knit, residential communities for students who share common interests. Many Family and Consumer Science Education majors participate in the Tomorrow's Teachers Scholars Program.

Honors and Scholars programs represent great opportunities to be part of a smaller community within a large university. Good candidates for these programs will receive additional information upon admission to the university. Learn more about the Honors and Scholars program at honors-scholars.osu.edu.

Career Opportunities in Family and Consumer Sciences Education

The career opportunities for graduates of this major may include Family and Consumer Sciences Education/4-H Extension Agent in one of Ohio's 88 counties, teaching Family and Consumer Sciences in middle and high schools, or teaching pregnant and parenting teens (GRADS) in a school setting, or informal and adult educational settings such as state and local family life programs. There is a great need in Ohio and across the nation for Family and Consumer Sciences Education teachers and extension agents.

With professional experience and sometimes additional college course work, graduates may consider specialized employment in the military, in Joint Vocational Schools, with community and social service agencies serving individuals and families from the very young to the older adult, in business and industry settings, in supervision and administration, in some colleges and universities, in consulting positions within corporations, in governmental agencies both in the United States and international settings, and in media and public relations.

Beginning salaries for graduates of this major range on average from \$33,700 to \$35,100, depending upon the candidate's skills, professional related experiences, and the salary scale of the school district or Extension position in question.

Revised October 2008. For the most up-to-date information about the Family and Consumer Sciences Education program, please visit ehe.osu.edu/fcsed.

Contact information:

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