FAMILY STUDIES

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(Social Work and Family Studies)

The well-being of individuals, couples, and families is a national and global concern. Family studies is an integrative field that synthesizes knowledge from many liberal arts disciplines, particularly economics, political science, psychology, social work, and sociology.

Social Work and Family Studies offers a concentration in family studies.

Intended Learning Outcomes for the Concentration (http://wp.stolaf.edu/curriculum-committee/family-studies-concentration-ilos)

Requirements

Recommended preparation: introductory courses in social sciences, biology, and statistics

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<td>Required department courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAMST 232</td>
<td>Introduction to Family Studies</td>
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<td>FAMST 242</td>
<td>Family Relationships</td>
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<td>FAMST 391</td>
<td>Senior Seminar: Special Topics</td>
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<td>Electives</td>
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<td>FAMST 253</td>
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Experiential component (see below)

Total Credits 5

1. These required courses provide a core of knowledge that is essential to thinking systematically about families as social systems and family as a social institution and its interactions within the larger social context.

2. At least one elective must be outside the Department of Social Work and Family Studies. These courses allow students to tailor their further knowledge about families to fit a specific application area or to integrate with their chosen majors. Elective courses not on this list may be counted with prior approval of the program director.

Experiential component

This requirement is usually an academic, credit-bearing experience completed during the senior year (including the previous summer.) It is designed to ensure that concentrators participate in an experience that applies basic family knowledge (theories, frameworks, concepts) to real families in a setting beyond the classroom. It must be approved by a faculty member in the Department of Social Work and Family Studies prior to enrollment and entered into the Department GoogleDoc. The experience and concomitant learning is presented as a graded assignment for a public audience in the senior seminar FAMST 391. Through the experience, students demonstrate attainment of intended learning outcomes for family studies.

Guidelines for the experiential component:

Includes a minimum of 40 hours devoted to direct experience with families (more than one):

1. Can be domestic or international;
2. Can be taken either graded or Pass/No Pass (P/N);
3. Can be submitted for distinction in a major, if it meets that department’s guidelines for distinction; and
4. Must be approved by a faculty member in the Department of Social Work and Family Studies prior to enrollment.

The experience may be:

• A project in a senior year course, or work with families in a social work practicum or nursing clinical; or
• An independent research project with family interaction (FAMST 394); or
• An internship with a family serving agency (quarter-, half-, or full-credit FAMST 294); or
• A summer experience prior to senior year that involves direct experience with families.
Courses

FAMST 120: I Want to Help People
Students explore service to human beings as a profession, both vocation and avocation. Who needs help? Who helps? Where? How? What motivates people to help? Using the liberal arts as a foundation for helping people, students study opportunities in areas such as health care, social services, ministry, youth work, and the arts. The class includes lectures, discussions, speakers, and field visits; additional fee. Open only to first-year students. Offered occasionally during interim.

FAMST 232: Introduction to Family Studies
Students examine American families through the life cycle in relation to personal and professional life, with the major emphasis on communication and commitment in interpersonal relationships. Students study courtship, marriage, adjustment to parenthood, and aging. They examine stressors that affect families such as family violence, divorce, grief and loss, and socioeconomic challenges. This course takes an interdisciplinary approach; students have opportunity for a broad range of individualized study. Offered every semester. Counts toward American studies major and family studies and management studies concentrations.

FAMST 242: Family Relationships
Students study the contemporary American family as it meets the challenge of a changing social world. The primary objective is to enlarge both personal and intellectual understanding of the complex issues facing families. Using the range of behavioral sciences concerned with family life, students study the interaction of individuals within families and families within society. Primary emphasis is on theories and practice of family communication. Offered each semester. Counts toward American studies major, family studies and educational studies concentrations, and women’s and gender studies major and concentration.

FAMST 253: Human Sexuality
This course explores the varied dimensions of human sexuality as they affect and are affected by past and present human relationships. Sexual problems and issues are examined for the development of a value framework and for the enrichment of family life. The course emphasizes critical thinking skills applied to current issues in human sexuality (e.g. gay marriage, race and gender issues, sexual violence). Students examine issues in contemporary research and ethics in sexuality. Offered each semester. Counts toward American studies major, family studies concentration, and women’s and gender studies major and concentration.

FAMST 294: Academic Internship
FAMST 298: Independent Study
FAMST 391: Senior Seminar: Special Topics
This required capstone seminar explores current research and the integration of key foundation disciplines in the study of families. Students explore special topics through readings assignments and lecture material.

Prerequisites: FAMST 232 and FAMST 242. Students can take FAMST 242 and FAMST 391 concurrently with permission of department chair or FAMST 391 instructor.

FAMST 394: Academic Internship
FAMST 396: Directed Undergraduate Research
This course provides a comprehensive research opportunity, including an introduction to relevant background material, technical instruction, identification of a meaningful project, and data collection. The topic is determined by the faculty member in charge of the course and may relate to his/her research interests. Offered based on department decision. May be offered as a 1.00 credit course or .50 credit course.
Prerequisite: determined by individual instructor.

FAMST 398: Independent Research

Faculty

Director, 2018-2019
Lisa L. Moore
Assistant Professor of Social Work and Family Studies
race and culture in families; emerging adulthood theory; social work practice

Mary S. Carlsen
Professor of Social Work and Family Studies
social policy; global social work; professional ethics; end of life care; family studies

Grace E. Cho
Associate Professor of Psychology
developmental psychology; child development; cultural psychology;
socioemotional development; parent-child processes

Dana L. Gross
Professor of Psychology, Associate Dean of Interdisciplinary and General Studies
developmental psychology; off-campus study

Judy Kutulas
Professor of History
20th-century U.S. history; U.S. women’s history; popular and material culture

Anna K. Kuxhausen
Associate Professor of History
Russian history; women’s history

Jennifer Kwon Dobbs
Associate Professor of English
poetry and poetics; creative nonfiction; Asian American literature; critical adoption studies

Diane C. LeBlanc
Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies and Director of the Writing Program
rhetoric and composition; creative writing; gender studies

Melissa A. Mendez
Visiting Assistant Professor of Social Work

Ryan R. Sheppard
Assistant Professor of Sociology/Anthropology
family; gender; race/ethnicity; social movements; quantitative research

Susan E. Smalling (on leave Interim and spring)
Associate Professor of Social Work and Family Studies
anti-oppressive research and practice; indigenous populations; family and child welfare