More than a career …

… A CALLING

Be part of a rewarding career that empowers individuals, families and communities to survive and thrive.

In the HDFS program, you'll address human development across the lifespan and gain the knowledge and skills you need to help improve the human condition. This may include intervening during crises, preventing future crises, helping people access resources, and advocating for changes in the systems that affect the lives of those in need. You can also focus on supporting young children and their families in early childhood settings.

Few careers offer as many opportunities to directly and profoundly impact lives. With an HDFS degree, you'll be ready for professional work or graduate study in fields such as education, HDFS, social work or public administration.

Experience matters. We build on a 100-year-plus legacy of ensuring health and well-being for people across the lifespan — in the United States and beyond.

Career options >

HDFS is an important and expanding field, and there are numerous career opportunities.

- Activity director
- Adoption agency counselor
- Caseworker
- Childcare coordinator
- Crisis intervention worker
- Early childhood policy advocate
- Educator*

- Emergency relief worker
- Family support worker
- Foster care caseworker
- Hospice worker
- Housing service coordinator
- International relief worker
- Marriage and family counselor
- Youth development specialist

*May require additional education and/or training
Choose your path

Child Development
Learn research-based strategies for supporting young children’s development in early childhood settings and programs that serve families. Develop a strong foundation for a career in early childhood programs or classrooms, as well as graduate work. With a double degree in HDFS and Education, you can earn dual licensure at the pre-kindergarten and elementary school levels.*

Human Services
Prepare for entry-level careers in family social services, youth or aging programs, volunteer management and crisis services, counseling, social work and more. Learn the importance of physical, mental and psychological wellness and prevention and how to empower individuals, families and communities through adversity. You can tailor electives to focus on particular issues or populations and will gain real life experience through at least two supervised internships in human services agencies.*

*The Child Development and Human Services options both offer an internship, which will strengthen your professional skills through hands-on, learn-by-doing experiences. In addition, you can complement any option with a minor such as public health, psychology or sociology.

Make a difference in the lives of children, youth, adults and families.

Support to help you soar
At Oregon State, you'll be part of a collaborative group of problem-solvers and a welcoming, knowledgeable team of advisors and others who can provide resources to help you succeed. From mentoring support and studying abroad to a health and wellness living-learning community and career resources, we’re here to support your success — in and out of the classroom. You might consider joining a club, participating in an internship or choosing a minor. Visit health.oregonstate.edu/success to see your options.

Head of the class
Did you know that if your GPA is over 3.75 (3.5 for current Oregon State students and transfer students), you’re eligible to earn your degree through the Honors College? This prestigious option means you get more faculty support and the opportunity for undergraduate research. It also gives you a leg up with future employers and graduate programs. Curious about how this works? Go to honors.oregonstate.edu to learn more.