PH.D. IN APPLIED DEVELOPMENTAL SCIENCE

Graduates from the Ph.D. program in Applied Developmental Science (ADS) will gain expertise in conducting high-quality research that has implications for a wide range of social and public health problems. Students leave as scholars with expertise in lifespan development, basic and applied research skills, and the translation of science into practice and programs to enhance well-being across the lifespan. Graduates are well-equipped to work in diverse and impactful careers in academia, for-profit and not-for-profit research and advocacy organizations, governmental and human services agencies, or community agencies that promote the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities.

Students can enter the ADS program with a completed master's degree or with a completed bachelor's degree. Those who enter with a bachelor's degree will complete a master's degree in Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS), and gain expertise and training in Prevention Science or Marriage and Family Therapy.

Students interested in graduate work should refer to the Graduate and Professional Bulletin (https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/graduate-bulletin/).

Learn more about the Ph.D. in Applied Developmental Science on the Department of Human Development and Family Studies website (https://www.chhs.colostate.edu/hdfs/programs-and-degrees/ph-d-in-applied-developmental-science/).

Learning Objectives

The Ph.D. Degree in Applied Developmental Science will produce scholars capable of understanding, synthesizing, and applying in-depth knowledge of theories and research related to systematic developmental changes in humans across the lifespan and the biopsychosocial perspective.

ADS students will:

1. Demonstrate the ability to articulate and translate theory and ethical research to applied implications (e.g., prevention programs, policy initiatives) that improve human well-being.
2. Apply state-of-the-art research methods for conducting laboratory- and field-based research.
3. Demonstrate the ability to function effectively as communicators, exhibiting subject knowledge and skills in the organization and presentation of materials.
4. Conduct research under the supervision of a faculty adviser culminating in a dissertation.

Requirements Effective Fall 2025

Code	Title	Credits
Content Core Courses		
HDFS 500	Issues in Human Development & Family Studies	3
HDFS 524	Family Studies	3
Select one of the following theory courses:		3
HDFS 534	Marriage and Family Therapy [1]	
HDFS 710	Theories of Applied Developmental Science	
Select one of the following lifespan area courses:		3
HDFS 611	Early Child Development	
HDFS 612	Adolescent Development	
HDFS 613	Adult Development and Aging	
Research Methods/Statistics		
HDFS 549	Research Methods I	3
HDFS 550	Research Methods II	3
HDFS 650	Multivariate Research Methods I	3
HDFS 750	Multivariate Research Methods II	3
Research Methods Elective [2]		3
PSY 600K	Advanced Psychology: Measurement	
PSY 754	Multivariate Analysis in Behavioral Sciences	
PSY 753	Structural Equation Modeling	
PSY 752	Item Response Theory	
SOC 613	Seminar in Multiple Regression and Path Analysis	
SOC 793B	Seminar: Quantitative Data Analysis	
SOC 793C	Seminar: Advanced Ethnographic Methods	
STAT 640	Design and Linear Modeling I	
STAT 645	Categorical Data Analysis and GLIM	
STAT 650	Design and Linear Modeling II	
Professional Development Courses		
HDFS 600	Professional Development Seminar	2
Thesis/Dissertation/Research		
HDFS 699	Thesis	3
HDFS 799	Dissertation	12
HDFS 698A	Research: Human Development	10
or HDFS 698B	Research: Family Studies	
Elective Courses [2]		**18**
Development/Theory Electives		
Choose at least 3 credits of the following:		
HDFS 610	Risk and Resilience	
HDFS 636	Aging and the Family	
HDFS 692A	Family Issues: Intimacy and Human Sexuality	
HDFS 692B	Family Issues: Parenting	

HDFS 692C	Family Issues: Family Policy and Programming
HDFS 792A	Seminar: Lifespan Socioemotional Development
HDFS 792B	Seminar: Lifespan Cognitive Development
Prevention Science and Intervention Electives	
Choose at least 6 credits of the following:	
HDFS 515	Family Systems and Psychopathology [1]
HDFS 520	Family Therapy Practice: Treatment Planning [1]
HDFS 521	Family Therapy Practice: Common Factors [1]
HDFS 592	Grant Writing--Research/Program Development
HDFS 607	Prevention Science Across the Lifespan
HDFS 608	Program Planning and Implementation
HDFS 609	Prevention Program Evaluation
HDFS 620	Family Therapy Practice: Addictions [1]
HDFS 621	Family Therapy Practice: Topics in Sexuality [1]
HDFS 624	Skills and Techniques in Family Therapy [1]
HDFS 644	Foundations in Family Therapy [1]
Program Total Credits:	**72**

A minimum of 72 credits are required to complete this program.

[1] Admission to Marriage and Family Therapy Program or permission of instructor.

[2] Select courses with approval of advisor and ADS director. Other courses can meet this requirement with prior approval of advisor and ADS director.

Requirements for All Graduate Degrees

For more information, please visit Requirements for All Graduate Degrees (https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/graduate-bulletin/graduate-study/procedures-requirements-all-degrees/) in the Graduate and Professional Bulletin (https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/graduate-bulletin/).

Summary of Procedures for the Master's and Doctoral Degrees

NOTE: Each semester the Graduate School publishes a schedule of deadlines. Deadlines are available on the Graduate School website (https://graduateschool.colostate.edu/deadline-dates/). Students should consult this schedule whenever they approach important steps in their careers.

Forms (https://graduateschool.colostate.edu/forms/) are available online.

Step	Due Date
1. Application for admission (online)	Six months before first registration
2. Diagnostic examination when required	Before first registration
3. Appointment of advisor	Before first registration
4. Selection of graduate committee	Before the time of fourth regular semester registration
5. Filing of program of study (GS Form 6)	Before the time of fourth regular semester registration
6. Preliminary examination (Ph.D. and PD)	Two terms prior to final examination
7. Report of preliminary examination (GS Form 16) - (Ph.D. and PD)	Within two working days after results are known
8. Changes in committee (GS Form 9A)	When change is made
9. Application for Graduation (GS Form 25)	Refer to published deadlines from the Graduate School Website
9a. Reapplication for Graduation (online)	Failure to graduate requires Reapplication for Graduation (online) for the next time term for which you are applying
10. Submit thesis or dissertation to committee	At least two weeks prior to the examination or at the discretion of the graduate committee
11. Final examination	Refer to published deadlines from the Graduate School Website
12. Report of final examination (GS Form 24)	Within two working days after results are known; refer to published deadlines from the Graduate School website
13. Submit a signed Thesis/Dissertation Submission Form (GS Form 30) to the Graduate School and Submit the Survey of Earned Doctorates (Ph.D. only) prior to submitting the electronic thesis/dissertation	Refer to published deadlines from the Graduate School website.
14. Submit the thesis/dissertation electronically	Refer to published deadlines from the Graduate School website
15. Graduation	Ceremony information is available from the Graduate School website