

APPLIED DEVELOPMENTAL SCIENCE PH.D. PROGRAM

The Applied Developmental Science Ph.D. Program at Colorado State
University offers graduate training in research and its application to issues
that affect the quality of life of individuals, families, and communities.
The department of Human Development and Family Studies offers an
interdisciplinary approach to the study of development across the lifespan.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:



Graduate students receive state-of-the-art training in human development theory and family sciences from a lifespan and ecological perspective, and develop the research skills to conduct both basic and applied research on human development.



Graduate students are given the opportunity to apply knowledge to real-world issues. Faculty and students are committed to translating research into evidence-based practice and finding solutions to current challenges facing individuals, families, and communities.



Students benefit from the perspectives of multiple disciplines and an understanding of the social and cultural contexts in which people develop. Collaborative and cross-disciplinary research is strongly valued.



Students work closely with faculty mentors to pursue programs of research that are tailored to their individual interests and aspirations. Students become productive scholars in their own right and they are supported by our faculty to accomplish this goal. Scholarship is nurtured through intensive mentoring, seminars and colloquia, active research labs, and participation in professional meetings.



The majority of Ph.D. students are supported by teaching and research assistantships that cover tuition and provide a monthly stipend during the academic year.



FACULTY RESEARCH AREAS

The Applied Developmental Science program is served by 18 full-time graduate faculty members in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies. Faculty research interests and expertise encompass the entire lifespan and embrace a range of interests at the intersection of basic and applied research. Students are encouraged to identify potential faculty mentors as part of the application process.



RISK, RESILIENCE, AND DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

The HDFS department includes several faculty members who pursue research programs related to developmental risk and protective factors, processes related to developmental psychopathology and atypical development, and developmental disabilities.

TREATMENT, INTERVENTION, AND PREVENTION SCIENCE

Many faculty members in the HDFS department at CSU are concerned with translational research, devising effective intervention and treatment strategies that are based on empirical evidence and careful evaluations.

EMOTION, REGULATION, AND RELATIONAL PROCESSES

Another area of faculty expertise involves the study of socioemotional processes, including emotional development, attachment, self-regulation, and emotion regulation. Faculty members also focus on relational processes in the context of parenting, family caregiving, and family/school linkages.

ADULT DEVELOPMENT AND AGING

Faculty research also focuses on emerging adulthood and development in midlife and the later part of the lifespan, as well as intergenerational family relationships.

CULTURAL CONTEXT AND DIVERSITY

Consistent with HDFS's basis in ecological theory, many faculty members conduct research on cultural influences, on gender and power dynamics in families, and on other forms of diversity.

FOCUS ON METHODOLOGICAL RIGOR

Faculty members have expertise in the application of sophisticated research methods and analytical techniques to basic and translational research (e.g., dynamic systems methods, multilevel modeling, structural equation modeling, daily diary methods, qualitative methods).