

Child & Family Services

The Child & Family Services major focuses on preparing students to support and advocate for children and families facing various challenges. Students learn about child development, family dynamics, case management, and community resources, equipping them to work with at-risk populations in a variety of settings. Graduates typically pursue careers in child welfare, family counseling, or youth services. Typical industry sectors include social services, healthcare, education, and non-profit organizations, where professionals work to strengthen families, ensure child safety, and promote well-being.

Job Title Examples:

- Child Welfare Worker
- Family Support Specialist
- Youth Program Coordinator
- Case Manager
- Foster Care Coordinator
- Parent Educator
- Child Life Specialist
- Family Advocate
- Social Services Assistant
- Community Outreach Coordinator

Hard and Soft Skills Needed:

Hard Skills:

1. Case Management
2. Child Development Knowledge
3. Crisis Intervention
4. Knowledge of Community Resources
5. Report Writing

Soft Skills:

1. Empathy
2. Communication
3. Problem-Solving
4. Active Listening
5. Time Management

Further Education/Training Required and/or Suggested:

A BS in Child and Family Services qualifies students for entry-level roles, but additional training or certifications can enhance career prospects:

To Enter the Field:

1. Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE):
 - For roles in family education and counseling.
2. Child Development Associate (CDA):
 - For early childhood education roles.

To Advance:

1. Master's Degree (e.g., MSW, MFT):
 - For advanced roles in social work, therapy, or family counseling.
2. Specialized Certifications:
 - For niche areas like child advocacy or family therapy.

Summary:

Certifications like CFLE or CDA may be beneficial for entry, while advanced degrees and certifications help with career advancement.

Professional or Student Associations:

- Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Child Studies Student Organization
- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- National Council on Family Relations (NCFR)
- American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS)
- Phi Upsilon Omicron Honor Society

CHHS Student Ambassador Program