



FACT SHEET

The Department of Child and Family Studies prepares Early Childhood and Family Life Educators, who respect diversity. These graduates work in a variety of community and state settings, as Early Childhood Teachers in the public school system and Family Advocates and Human Service Workers in social service settings. Students benefit from the educational experiences offered in the department in their own family and personal life.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Department of Child and Family Studies is to prepare students through contemporary educational practices to become Early Childhood and Family Life Educators who respect diversity. These practitioners will create environments that enhance the lives and healthy development of adults, children, and families over the lifespan.

Department Website: <http://weber.edu/chfam>

Majors (Bachelor of Science)

- Early Childhood (Pre-Kindergarten)
- Early Childhood Education (Pre-K - grade 3)
- Family Studies (Certified Family Life Educator)
- Child & Family Studies Department Honors
- Bachelor of Integrated Studies

Minors

- Child Development
- Family Studies

Early Childhood Education

- The Early Childhood Education program is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).
- Early Childhood Education has a nearly 100% placement rate and graduates are highly recruited. ECE graduates can become licensed teachers for kindergarten through third grade.

Family Studies

- The Family Studies program is approved by the National Council on Family Relations.
- Family Studies qualifies graduates to be a Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) through the National Council on Family Relations.
- For students who pursue employment in the field, most are successful in securing employment with human service agencies.
- Very high admission rate (over 90%) of students pursuing graduate studies in marriage and family therapy. Students are very well prepared in family systems theory which is the foundation for graduate studies in marriage and family therapy.

Departmental Honors

- Opportunity for exceptional students to highlight and distinguish their academic achievement to professional schools, graduate programs, and prospective employers.

Academic Advisor

- The Academic Advisor assists students, both majors and minors, in the Department to more fully realize their academic potential. This is achieved through individual advising sessions, using advising tools, and making referrals to appropriate university resources. Advising is an ongoing process and helps students to fully utilize resources to succeed in reaching their professional goals.
- **Website:** <http://www.weber.edu/COE/cfsadvise.html>

Child and Family Studies Student Organization (CFSSA)

- CFSSA is a student organization providing educational, leadership, and service opportunities to students in the Child and Family Studies program. CFSSA provides assistance with the certification process for Family Life Education and Early Childhood Education. Additionally, support is offered for those pursuing graduate education, community outreach, and professional development.
- CFSSA was recognized as the Crystal Crest Organization of the Year.
- **Website:** <http://www.weber.edu/COE/cfssa.html>

Families Alive

- The Families Alive Conference, in its current format, originated in 1980. The faculty in Child & Family Studies at Weber State University organized the conference to dispel the myth that families are dysfunctional or obsolete and to champion the success of everyday families. The faculty and presenters share relevant and applicable information about families with students, professionals, and the community at-large. The department offers the conference on a biennial or triennial basis. Many agencies, institutions, and foundations provide generous support for the Families Alive Conference.
- **Website:** http://www.weber.edu/COE/Families_Alive_Conference.html

The Family and Community Education Center

- The Family and Community Education Center (FCEC) is an educational and support center housed in the Moyes College of Education and closely connected to the Department of Child and Family Studies. Several programs are affiliated and receive organizational support from the FCEC including the Families Alive Conference, The WSU Family Literacy Program, The WSU Charter Academy, and the Children's School. The FCEC will also serve as a clearinghouse for community family educational activities and to share best practices in child development and family educational activities.
- **Website:** http://www.weber.edu/COE/Family_Education_Center.html

Healthy Relationship and Marriage Initiatives

- Recently, the department partnered with Head Start to provide healthy relationship and marriage education courses to lower income families in the Ogden area as part of a federally funded grant. The program was very successful and provided an important community resource to strengthen families and couple relationships.
- Currently, some faculty and students are engaged in an evaluation of a popular relationship education curriculum. This project will inform practitioners of the best practices for relationship education.
- **Website:** <http://www.weber.edu/COE/cfsmarriage.html>

WSU Family Literacy Program

- The program serves the community by providing in-home training and mentoring to lower income families in the Ogden area. The program works with the parents of Head Start children to facilitate greater engagement in literacy activities with their Children. The WSU Family Literacy Program uses an individualized instructional approach with parents to promote greater parental involvement with home-based literacy activities. The program is offered to both Spanish and English speaking families.
- The program is funded by the Glasmann Family Literacy Endowment at Weber State University and partners with the Ogden-Weber Community Action Partnership (Head Start). Additionally, the program provides memberships to the Elizabeth Stewart Treehouse Museum. Funding and in-kind donations come from the UBS Bank Foundation, The Eccles Foundation, and Deseret Industries.
- **Website:** <http://www.weber.edu/COE/cfsliteracy.html>

Selected Faculty and Student Research Activities

- Dr. Pamela Payne recently completed a research paper entitled “Using Common Evaluation Instruments Across Multi-State Community Programs: A Pilot Study” which will be published in the *Journal of Extension*.
- Dr. Wei Qiu and several students presented a paper at the 2012 *National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)* Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. They presented on developmentally appropriate uses of iPads in early childhood programs.
- Dr. Paul Schvaneveldt and Dr. Daniel Hubler recently published an article entitled “Mate Selection in Bolivia: A Comparison of Rural and Urban Practices and Preferences” which will be published in the *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*.
- Paul Busk, a recent Family Studies graduate, co-presented a paper at the *National Council on Family Relations* Conference in Phoenix, AZ. He and Dr. Schvaneveldt presented a paper entitled “Parental Influences on Adolescent Social Competence Among Bolivian Youth.”
- Dr. Paul Schvaneveldt recently published a paper entitled: Family policies in Ecuador: A call for explicit family policies. In M. Robila (Ed.), *Family Policies Across the Globe*. New York: Springer.
- Dr. Paul Schvaneveldt is co-editing a book entitled: *Parenting across cultures: Childreading, motherhood and fatherhood in Non-Western cultures*. New York: Springer.
- Four out of the past eight years, students from the Family Studies program have won the national award for the *Oustanding Undergraduate Research Paper* awarded by the National Council on Family Relations.

Melba S. Lerner Children's School

- The School provides for developmentally appropriate learning environments for young children within the Department of Child and Family Studies. The school was established in 1952 and currently includes five indoor classrooms, outdoor learning areas, and observation booths. The school offers a toddler program, a partial-day preschool, and a full day program. The school serves over 120 children and families per semester.
- The Children's School is founded on developmentally appropriate practices and follows the National Association for the Education of Young Children guidelines for early learning. The Children's School preschool is available to the general community while the extended day preschool and toddler program is available only to dependents of Weber State University students, faculty, and staff.
- **Website:** <http://www.weber.edu/COE/CollegePages/ChildrensSchool.htm>

Weber State University Charter Academy Kindergarten

- The mission of the WSU Charter Academy is to provide an educational learning center with an emphasis on student learning and family involvement; where WSU pre-service teachers may observe and practice cutting-edge, research-based educational practices; and where research on various aspects of education may be conducted.
- The WSU Charter Academy is focused on educating the whole child using developmentally appropriate and research supported curricula and instructional methods. The WSU Charter Academy will draw its students from mainly Davis, Morgan, Ogden, Summit and Weber School Districts.
- Website: <http://www.weber.edu/COE/CollegePages/charteracad.html>

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)

The Department of Child and Family Studies receives a grant from The Utah Department of Workforce Services to operate the Northern Area Child Care Resource and Referral Office. The program serves families, employers, and child care professionals in the Northern Utah area. The following services are provided:

Families

- Receive customized referrals to licensed and regulated child care facilities at no charge.
- Are provided with access to accurate information about choosing quality child care.
- May access information on positive parenting strategies to foster healthy child development.

Employers

- Are invited to take advantage of free workshops for their employees on the topics of work life-balance.
- The opportunity is available for mentoring on low or no cost support initiatives.
- Are encouraged to collaborate with CCR&R to better serve employees.

Child Care Professionals

- Enjoy low cost training in child development, quality environments for children, and developing successful childcare curriculum.
- Receive access to grant resources to support the development of new businesses.
- Access to individualized mentoring and technical support from CCR&R specialists.
- Provided with opportunities to earn the nationally recognized Child Development Associate (CDA) credential as training is provided by CCR&R professionals.

Other

- The data maintained by CCR&R specialists is available to individuals and community partners interested in specific information about the availability and demand for child care in Weber, Davis, and Morgan Counties.
- **Website:** <http://www.weber.edu/ccrr>

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