DEPARTMENT OF CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES
JERRY AND VICKIE MOYES COLLEG OF EDUCATION
WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

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 apply to become 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 or social work.
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](http://www.weber.edu/COE/cfsadvise.html)

**Child About Childcare (CAC) at Weber State University**

The Department of Child and Family Studies receives a grant from The Utah Department of Workforce Services to operate the Care About Childcare Office. The program serves families, employers, and child care professionals in the Northern Utah area.

**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 CAC 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 CAC specialists.
- Provided with opportunities to earn the nationally recognized Child Development Associate (CDA) credential as training is provided by CAC professionals.
- 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://programs.weber.edu/ccrr/](http://programs.weber.edu/ccrr/)

**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 in 2014.
- Website: [http://www.weber.edu/COE/cfssa.html](http://www.weber.edu/COE/cfssa.html)
Families Alive

- The Families Alive Conference is organized by 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.
- 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 and to promote healthy families.
- Website: [http://www.weber.edu/FamiliesAlive](http://www.weber.edu/FamiliesAlive)

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://weber.edu/COE/CollegePages/ChildrensSchool.html](http://weber.edu/COE/CollegePages/ChildrensSchool.html)

Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education Project

- The Department of Child and Family Studies received a grant from the Utah Department of Human Services to provide healthy marriage and relationship education programming in Weber and Davis counties. Educational programming is offered in partnership with several local agencies serving lower income families and individuals.
- Website: [http://weber.edu/COE/cfsmarriage.html](http://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://weber.edu/COE/cfsliteracy.html](http://weber.edu/COE/cfsliteracy.html)
Recent Faculty Research Publications


Programs in the Moyes College of Education Connected with the Department of Child and Family Studies

The Boyd K. and Donna S. Packer Center for Family and Community Education
- The Packer Center is an educational and support center housed in the Moyes College of Education and connected to the Department of Child and Family Studies. Several programs within the Department of Child and Family Studies receive organizational support from the Packer Center including the Families Alive Conference, The WSU Family Literacy Program, and the Melba S. Lehner Children’s School.
- **Website:** [http://www.weber.edu/COE/CollegePages/Packer_Center.html](http://www.weber.edu/COE/CollegePages/Packer_Center.html)

Weber State University Charter Academy
- The mission of the Weber State University 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.
- Several students and faculty in the Department of Child and Family Studies are involved with the Charter Academy including classroom experiences.
- **Website:** [http://www.weber.edu/COE/CollegePages/charter.html](http://www.weber.edu/COE/CollegePages/charter.html)

Weber State University Storytelling Festival
- The Weber State University Storytelling Festival is sponsored by the Department of Teacher Education.
- Several students and faculty in the Department of Child and Family Studies support the festival each year.
- The mission of the Weber State University Storytelling Festival is to promote the art of storytelling in Northern Utah. The goals are to provide the opportunity for creative expression, enjoyment and pleasure through storytelling. Encourage the sharing of community histories, traditions, talents, and ethnic cultures of Utah. Encourage the participation of diverse cultures in Utah. Enhance the programs and activities of the University, and participating school districts.
- **Website:** [http://www.weber.edu/COE/CollegePages/Storytelling.html](http://www.weber.edu/COE/CollegePages/Storytelling.html)

Department Contacts:

Paul L. Schvaneveldt, Ph.D., CFLE  
Professor and Chair  
Department Child and Family Studies  
Weber State University  
Ogden, UT 84408-1301  
801-626-6597  
[pschvaneveldt@weber.edu](mailto:pschvaneveldt@weber.edu)

Melinda Bowers  
Department Secretary  
Department Child and Family Studies  
Weber State University  
Ogden, UT 84408-1301  
801-626-7151  
[melindabowers@weber.edu](mailto:melindabowers@weber.edu)