MS in Human Development and Family Studies

Admission Contact Information
Ashlie Lester, lestera@missouri.edu
411 Gentry; Columbia, MO 65211
573-882-1301

Admission Criteria for Campus Programs

Fall deadline: December 15
Spring deadline: November 1

Minimum TOEFL scores:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Internet-based test (iBT)</th>
<th>Paper-based test (PBT)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>61 Effective July 1, 2015 must have score of 80</td>
<td>500 Effective July 1, 2015 must have score of 550</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Minimum GRE scores:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When did you take the GRE?</th>
<th>Verbal + Quantitative</th>
<th>Analytical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prior to August 1, 2011</td>
<td>50th percentile</td>
<td>50th percentile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On or After August 1, 2011</td>
<td>50th percentile</td>
<td>50th percentile</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Some exceptions are made

- Minimum GPA: 3.0 for last 60 hours
- Required Application Materials for Campus Programs (submitted online via the online application system)
- Application form
- 3 letters of recommendation from people who can speak to applicant’s potential to do graduate work (e.g., professors, advisors).
- GRE score (and TOEFL score for international applicants)
- Personal statement
- Résumé or Curriculum Vitae
- Official Transcripts

Admission Criteria for Online Programs

- No Admission Deadlines (We guarantee processing of complete applications received at least two months prior to the beginning of the expected term of admission. This will give admitted students adequate time to enroll in coursework.)
- Minimum GPA: 3.0 for last 60 hours

Required Application Materials for Online Programs

submit online via the online application system (https://app.applyyourself.com/AYApplicantLogin/fl_ApplicantConnectLogin.asp?id=umc-grad)

- Application form
- 3 letters of recommendation from people who can speak to applicant’s potential to do graduate work (e.g., professors, advisors).
- Personal statement
- Résumé or Curriculum Vitae

Plan of Study Options

Programs are structured to provide students with an integration of theoretical perspectives, empirical research training, and practical experiences. The number of hours required for each master’s degree is as follows:

- Family Studies: 36 hours
- Child Life: 30 (fast track) or 36 hours
- Early Childhood: 36 hours
- Life Span: 36 hours
- Gerontology: 36 hours
- Youth Development: 36 hours
- Family and Community Services: 36 hours
- Dual MSorMA/JD: approximately 113 hours Research

Master’s of Science students must complete a thesis (H_D_FS 9090). Students who wish to pursue the thesis must petition the department’s graduate faculty for approval. The thesis requires testing a hypothesis or exploring a research question. Student will submit and orally defend the thesis to their committee. For more detailed information, please refer to the HDFS Graduate Handbook found on the HDFS website (http://hdfs.missouri.edu/).

Research

Based on their chosen degree option and whether they are pursuing the MS or MA degree, master’s students may write a thesis (H_D_FS 9090), complete a project (H_D_FS 8090), or do an internship (H_D_FS 8972) for up to six credit hours. The thesis requires testing a hypothesis or exploring a research question. The project option is no less scholarly than a thesis, but usually has an applied focus. For instance, a project may involve designing a program and developing curriculum materials (e.g., instructional videotapes, websites, resource manuals). Internships are often conducted off-campus and must be negotiated with the student’s advisor and approved by the student’s faculty committee. Students who wish to pursue the thesis option must petition the department’s graduate faculty for approval. Students completing a thesis earn a Master of Science degree. Those completing a project or internship earn the Master of Arts. For more detailed information, please refer to the HDFS Graduate Handbook found on the HDFS website (http://hdfs.missouri.edu/).

Satisfactory Progress

Satisfactory progress is based on the student maintaining a sufficient GPA according to the student’s program or funding guidelines and completing all degree forms and milestones according to departmental timelines. For a detailed description of the department’s description of a satisfactory rate of academic progress, please refer to the HDFS Graduate Handbook found on the HDFS website (http://hdfs.missouri.edu/).

Time Limits for Masters’ Degree Completion

Students working toward the master’s degree have 5 years from the semester the first course is taken in which to complete all degree requirements. Extensions for one additional year to complete the degree may be granted with submission of a detailed plan for completion, including a timetable. Students must be making progress toward
completion when they apply for the extension. A maximum of two extensions may be granted.