

## *Family Services Student Learning Objectives*

*The Bachelor of Arts degree in Family Services is designed to prepare graduates for professional positions often found in non-profit agencies providing educational, prevention and early intervention services for families and their members. The Family Services major provides a solid foundation in core knowledge and skills for students who pursue advanced graduate degrees in working with, and the study of, families.*

*The philosophy of the program is grounded in a strong liberal arts foundation along with content areas associated with understanding families in their diversity, development and context. Furthermore, the program focuses on providing students with core knowledge and skills necessary for effective and reflective work, as family life educators and professionals.*

### *Student Learning Objectives:*

*Objective 1: Students will demonstrate knowledge in understanding families, the development of families, and family interpersonal interactions within broader and diverse contexts.*

#### **Competencies:**

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of families as they exist in various contexts and their relationships to other institutions such as educational, governmental, religious and occupational institutions in society.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of family strengths and weaknesses and how family members relate to each other.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the developmental changes (both typical and atypical) of families, and individuals, across the lifespan.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the physiological, psychological and social aspects of sexual development across the lifespan.
5. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the development and maintenance of family and interpersonal relationships and dynamics.
6. Students will demonstrate an understanding of ethical questions and issues as they relate to professional practice.
7. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the general philosophy and broad principles of family life education.

*Objective 2: Students will be able to discover, evaluate, and integrate sources of knowledge.*

#### **Competencies:**

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the core empirical method(s) utilized in family studies.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the principles associated with evidence based and best practices, as it relates to family services and programming.

*Objective 3: Students will be able to assess the strengths, challenges, needs, and interaction patterns of families and individuals using major theoretical frameworks in family studies and human development.*

**Competencies:**

1. Students will demonstrate an ability to integrate theoretical and empirical based knowledge into strategies for discovery.
2. Students will demonstrate an ability to solicit, and evaluate, knowledge from families and individuals to assess their concerns and needs.
3. Students will demonstrate an ability to utilize family services tools and protocols for family assessments for prevention and early intervention programming.

*Objective 4: Students will be able to provide education, preventative, and supportive strategies and services to individuals, families and groups.*

**Competencies:**

1. Students will demonstrate professional oral and written communication skills needed in family services.
2. Students will be able to plan, implement and evaluate prevention and educational programs for families.
3. Students will demonstrate a proficiency in skills associated with program implementation.
4. Students will demonstrate the ability to provide support and early intervention programming and services to families and individuals.

*Objective 5: Students will demonstrate an understanding of professional codes of behavior and the ability to critically examine ethical questions and issues as they relate to professional practice.*

**Competencies:**

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of professional standards of behavior with respect to individuals, families, professional colleagues and the profession.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to assess situations for potential ethical dilemmas.
3. Students will be able to articulate an ethical decision making process when confronted with an ethical dilemma.