CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES

What can I do with this major?

AREAS

PRE-SCHOOL/DAY CARE

Teaching
Parent Child

Parent-Child Education

Administration:

Curriculum Development

Training

Management

EMPLOYERS

Private, public, franchise and corporate day care centers

Pre-schools

Montessori schools

Religious organizations

Extended school programs

Recreation programs

Health clubs

Private homes

Family day care

Federal, state and local government:

Department of Health and Human Services Head Start

STRATEGIES

Obtain experience working with children through volunteer, intern or part-time positions.

Demonstrate patience, creativity and the ability to work well with people of various backgrounds.

Develop strong communications skills to deal effectively with students, staff and parents.

Acquire appropriate certification, such as Child Development Associate (CDA) or Pre-K licensure for some pre-school settings. Certification varies by state.

Note that some private employers seek staff whose religious values match their organizations' missions.

EDUCATION

Teaching:

Early Childhood Education

Early Childhood Special Education

Home Economics

Family and Consumer Sciences

Curriculum Development

Research

Counseling

Administration

College Student Affairs

Public and private schools (K-12)
Public pre-school programs (Head Start)

Private pre-school programs

Montessori schools

Adult education programs

Extension offices

Colleges and universities

Develop excellent interpersonal, public speaking and writing skills.

Learn to work well with different types of people.

Gain experience working with a target age group through mentoring, tutoring or volunteering with a school-based organization.

Serve as a peer mentor, resident assistant or student advisor to cultivate leadership and communication skills.

Join student chapters of national teaching organizations.

Acquire appropriate certification for public school (and some private school) teaching positions, which varies by state.

Obtain graduate degree for counseling, student affairs and administrative positions.

A master's degree may be sufficient for teaching at community or two-year institutions.

Pursue a Ph.D. for college and university teaching and research opportunities.

AREAS

SOCIAL SERVICES

Case Management

Counseling

Advocacy

Program Development

Community Education

Volunteer Coordination

Administration

Research

Evaluation

Fundraising

Public Relations

Grant Writing

EMPLOYERS

Community centers

Youth services agencies/ programs

Family services agencies/ programs (financial, family planning, health and wellness, marriage, vocational, food/housing assistance, military family support)

Senior citizens programs

Nursing homes

Assisted living facilities

Rehabilitation organizations

Group homes

Half-way houses

Mediation centers

Consulting firms

Consumer protection agencies

Adoption agencies

Federal, state and local government including:

Department of Health and Human Services:

Administration on Aging

Administration for Children and Families

Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services
Administration

Health Resources & Services Administration

Department of Veterans Affairs

Department of Justice:

Probation and parole offices

Correctional facilities

STRATEGIES

Exhibit a desire to help others, along with communication and organizational skills.

Seek experience as a volunteer, intern or paid employee with social service or non-profit organizations.

Become familiar with government and community resources available for those in need.

Develop a wide range of skills such as presenting, grant writing and fundraising, as professionals in nonprofit organizations may fill multiple roles in their positions.

Learn to work well with different types of people from varying socioeconomic, racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds.

Supplement curriculum with courses in social work, sociology or psychology.

Pursue additional coursework to specialize in an area or with a certain population such as addiction, gerontology, child welfare, etc.

Consider earning Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) credential through the National Council on Family Relations.

Become familiar with government hiring procedures.

Obtain a master's degree and appropriate licensure in mental health counseling, social work or rehabilitation counseling to provide therapy.

Earn a graduate degree for greater access to administrative positions.

AREAS

ADVOCACY

Domestic and International Advocacy Humanitarian Services, i.e. human rights, family planning, world health, disaster relief

Development:

Economic

Community

Housing

Policy Development

Program Administration

Fundraising/Development

Volunteer Coordination

Grant Writing

EMPLOYERS

Community action agencies Nonprofit organizations

Private voluntary organizations

Faith based organizations (FBO's) and churches International aid and relief organizations

NGO's (Non-governmental Organizations), i.e. Action Aid. Oxfam. International Red Cross

Federal government agencies with

International focus: Peace Corps, USAID,

Foreign Service (State Department)
Community assistance focus: Housing and

Urban Development, Department of Health and Human Services

State and local government agencies

STRATEGIES

Demonstrate strong desire to help others. Volunteer at social service agencies to gain experience and demonstrate interest.

Participate in campus "alternative break" trips or church-led mission trips to gain experience assisting groups in need.

Pursue leadership roles in campus and community advocacy organizations, and learn how to motivate individuals and groups.

Develop excellent research, writing, communication and organizational skills; fundraising experience may be helpful for some positions.

Complete an internship with a government organization in area of interest.

Research federal, state and local job application procedures.

HEALTHCARE

Hospital Based Family Support/Child Life Services (provide emotional support, educate children and families, identify resources, coordinate events) Health, Nutrition, Safety Education Advocacy Hospitals

Doctors' offices

Healthcare facilities

Specialized camps/schools

Hospice programs

Funeral homes

Social service organizations

Public health programs

Federal, state and local government including:

Department of Health and Human Services:

Administration on Aging

Administration for Children and Families Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services

Administration

Health Resources & Services Administration

Volunteer in a healthcare setting such as a hospital or specialized children's camp.

Develop a high comfort level working in clinical environments with children and families under stress.

Acquire strong communication skills, and plan to work on interdisciplinary teams of doctors, nurses, counselors, etc. who provide care to children.

Obtain Child Life Specialist certification through the Child Life Council, and be willing to relocate for greater access to positions in children's hospitals.

Prepare to work nights, weekends and holidays in some healthcare settings.

Earn a master's degree in social work, counseling, nutrition, public health or related area for increased opportunities.

AREAS

BUSINESS

Market Research
Product Testing
Product Development
Management
Sales
Customer Service

EMPLOYERS

Manufacturing companies of children's clothes, toys, furniture and food
Consumer protection agencies
Department and retail stores
Social service organizations with business components, i.e. tax assistance, financial planning

STRATEGIES

Demonstrate initiative, attention to detail, organization and problem-solving skills.

Learn to communicate effectively with a wide-range of people. Consider taking interpersonal communication and public speaking classes.

Earn a business minor or supplement program with courses such as accounting, management, finance, etc. to increase understanding of business theory.

Obtain sales/retail experience with companies catering to children's needs.

Join business or retail student organizations and secure leadership positions.

COMMUNICATIONS

Research

Curriculum/Resource Development

Journalism

Writing

Editing

Public Relations

Organizations geared toward children and families including:

Book publishers

Radio and TV stations

Newspapers

Magazines

Social service organizations

Manufacturers

Consumer protection agencies

Professional associations

Develop excellent grammar and writing skills. Learn to think critically and research effectively.

Take elective courses in the communications field such as journalism, broadcasting, public relations and advertising, or earn a minor in one area of interest.

Obtain experience with a college newspaper, yearbook, alumni publication or with local radio or television stations.

Compile a portfolio of writing samples, ad campaigns and other relevant work, especially those that have been published.

Develop desktop publishing, webpage design and other computer skills. Online communication is increasing, while print is declining.

Pursue an active role, preferably leadership, in journalism organizations.

Prepare to work in deadline-oriented environments and to withstand criticism.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

- · A Bachelor's degree is sufficient for entry-level positions.
- Advanced degrees are essential for clinical and therapeutic counseling positions.
- The Child and Family Studies major can serves as preparation for students pursuing advanced training in other areas such as healthcare, i.e. pediatric nursing, family medicine; law, i.e. family law, elder law, child advocacy; and ministry, i.e. youth ministry, pastoral counseling. Research admissions requirements and take pre-requisite courses for programs of interest.
- A Master's degree or Ph.D. is often needed for administrative and supervisory positions.
- A Ph.D. is required for most college teaching and advanced research positions.
- Additional or specialized training qualifies one for higher paying opportunities and positions of greater responsibility.
- Obtain part-time, summer, internship or volunteer experience in child care, schools, hospitals, camps, or overseas programs or in advocacy or service-oriented programs addressing alcoholism, drug abuse, family violence, aging, poverty, disabilities, etc.
- · Obtain certification for specialized areas including Child Life Specialist or Family Life Educator.