

# GRADUATE CERTIFICATE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



COLLEGE OF  
EDUCATION AND  
HUMAN SCIENCES



## OVERVIEW

The Department of Human Development and Family Science offers a 12-credit hour Graduate Certificate in Developmental Disabilities. The certificate integrates contemporary research, theory, practice, and policy in the field of developmental disabilities with a primary focus on individuals with intellectual disability and their families. Coursework includes a person-centered approach that acknowledges the significant lifelong role of family members and emphasizes reflective practice for professionals. Graduates of the certificate program:

- Obtain knowledge of critical issues for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families
- Develop effective support strategies for individuals with IDD and their families
- Gain competence in mental health diagnoses that commonly co-occur in individuals with IDD
- Provide leadership in a variety of fields with individuals and families, including marriage and family therapy, education, healthcare, and human services.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURES

All application materials are submitted through the OSU Graduate College. Applicants should submit the following items as part of their application materials:

- OSU Graduate College application online at [gradcollege.okstate.edu](https://gradcollege.okstate.edu) (and non-refundable application fee)
- Transcripts with bachelor's degree conferred or pending\*
- Resume/Curriculum Vitae
- Statement of professional goals
- Names and email addresses for three references. References will receive an email requesting completion of an online recommendation form.
- All international applicants must also submit scores from the TOEFL exam\*\* or the IELTS (academic stream) exam; the exam must have been taken within the last two years.

\*A minimum GPA of 3.0 is preferred for prospective graduate certificate students.

\*\*A minimum TOEFL score of 79 is required for admission.

**CORE COURSE REQUIREMENTS****HDFS 5083: Disabilities in the Family & Community Context**

Intellectual and developmental disabilities from a systemic perspective, emphasizing the role of families and communities across the lifespan. Current policy, research and practice for community inclusion and family support. Conceptual frameworks for understanding of and practice with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and families will include family systems and ecological perspectives. Course must be taken for graduate credit.

**HDFS 5283: Developmental Disabilities**

Overview of contemporary research, theory, practice, and policy in the field of developmental disabilities with a primary focus on individuals with intellectual disability and their family members.

**SPECIALIZATION COURSEWORK (SELECT TWO)****HDFS 5153: Policy in HDFS**

Critical analysis of approaches to and models of policy in Human Development and Family Science. Examination of policy analysis and evaluation, development, advocacy, and implementation of state and federal policy and legislation.

**HDFS 5193: Reflective Practice**

An exploration of the principles and methods of reflective practice. Reflective journaling and group interactive dialogue based on the application of theoretical models. Supervised field experiences in community settings.

**HDFS 5690: Practicum in Marriage & Family Therapy**

Supervised clinical experience for students in the marriage and family therapy specialization. Admission to the marriage and family therapy program and consent of instructor required. Three credit hours required.

**HDFS 5623: Systems Theory & Applications to the Family**

Examination of the cybernetic roots and terminology used with general systems theory providing an understanding, appreciation and integration of the role of "systems" approaches to family theory and clinical practice.

**HDFS 5653: Systematic Approaches to Psychopathology & Psychopharmacology**

Overview of major mental disorders and other conditions that may be the focus of clinical mental health treatment. Treatment issues and an introduction to psychopharmacology.

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DEPARTMENT OF  
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