

Department of Human and Community Development

www.aces.uiuc.edu/~hcd

The Department of Human and Community Development offers the major in Agricultural and Environmental Communications and Education, with concentrations in Agricultural Communications, Agricultural Education, Agricultural Leadership Education, and Environmental Communications and Education; and the major in Human Development and Family Studies, with concentrations in Child and Adolescent Development and Family Studies.

Major in Agricultural and Environmental Communications and Education

The major in Agricultural and Environmental Communications and Education prepares students for a wide variety of positions in agricultural and environmental sciences that require expertise in communications and education. Examples include professional writing, editing, and publishing; public relations; advertising; broadcasting; teaching agriculture in the public schools; Cooperative Extension work; training and program development; and other education- and communication-related positions in agricultural and environmental agencies and businesses throughout the public and private sectors.

Agricultural Communications Concentration

The concentration in Agricultural Communications is for students pursuing careers in the combined fields of agriculture and communications. Graduates are prepared to work in agricultural writing, editing, and publishing; public relations; advertising; radio and television broadcasting; and photography. The College of ACES and the College of Communications offer this curriculum cooperatively. It allows for planning study programs closely related to students' interests in broadcast journalism, news-editorial, or advertising.

Agricultural Education Concentration

The Agricultural Education concentration prepares students to teach agriculture in Illinois high schools. State of Illinois certification requirements include a minimum of 2,000 hours of employment experience in agriculture. Dual certification in general science, biology, physical sciences, or other areas may be pursued. Agricultural Education students must maintain a 2.5 (4.0 = A) GPA or above to remain in good standing. Review procedures are provided by the Council on Teacher Education. Applications for student teaching should be submitted early in the spring semester of the year preceding the student teacher practicum.

Agricultural Leadership Education Concentration

The Agricultural Leadership Education concentration prepares students for educational leadership, training, and outreach positions in agriculture, extension, and community and governmental agencies. Course work focuses on designing educational and training programs, making professional presentations, leadership development, teaching/training methods, and interpersonal communications. A four-week summer internship with a business or agency is required. The curriculum provides the flexibility for students to specialize in a chosen area of agriculture.

Environmental Communications and Education Concentration

The concentration in Environmental Communications and Education is designed for students pursuing careers in the combined fields of environment and communications or education. The concentration prepares students to work in communication and education settings such as environmental organizations, businesses, and community and governmental agencies. Students work with advisors to design their own areas of specialization in communication or education. The program prepares students to work in a wide variety of contexts, including volunteer development, member coordination, administrative support, program planning and delivery, and information delivery.

Major in Human Development and Family Studies

The Human Development and Family Studies major prepares students for a variety of careers in human services, business, education, and public service and for advanced study in individual and family development. Students can concentrate on their special interests in human development, such as infancy, early childhood, and adolescence, or on interests in family studies, such as marital relationships, family change, parent-child interaction, or conflict resolution in the family. Basic courses are linked to practical experiences in education and community settings. Such experiences help graduates find employment in areas such as pediatric services in hospitals, Cooperative Extension work, childcare services, business activities related to children and families, and government sponsored human services. Students must choose the Child and Adolescent Development or Family Studies concentration.

Child and Adolescent Development Concentration

The Child and Adolescent Development concentration emphasizes the influence of families, peer groups, schools, and communities on the well-being of children and adolescents. Graduates are qualified to provide a wide range of services and to lead programs for children and their families. Career opportunities include being an early childhood educator, a parent educator, a child life specialist, an adoption caseworker, or the director of a day-care center. Graduates may choose to pursue graduate study in a variety of fields, including education, psychology, social work, law, and medicine.

Family Studies Concentration

The Family Studies concentration focuses on how families operate, develop, and change in response to the challenges of modern life. Students learn to appreciate the diversity of family life by studying different cultures and how families can learn to manage conflict. Graduates are qualified to provide many services to couples and families. Career opportunities include being a family life educator, a human resources specialist, a caseworker, or a family service coordinator. Graduates may choose to pursue graduate study in a variety of fields, including marriage and family therapy, social work, education, psychology, law, and medicine.

Refer to the major and concentration check sheets on pages 85 to 90 for specific program requirements.