

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**Web Site:** <https://twu.edu/human-development-family-studies-counseling/graduate-programs/child-development/>

The master's degree in child development covers child growth and development from infancy through adolescence, including cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development. Students explore major theories and empirical research on child development and how it applies to work with children and families.

The M.S. in Child Development may be completed up to 100% online and in an accelerated format.

## Marketable Skills

Defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's 60x30 Strategic Plan (<https://reportcenter.highered.texas.gov/agency-publication/miscellaneous/the-cb-60x30-strategic-plan/>) as, "Those skills valued by employers that can be applied in a variety of work settings, including interpersonal, cognitive, and applied skills areas. These skills can be either primary or complementary to a major and are acquired by students through education, including curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities."

1. Critically consume research literature.
2. Apply research evidence to professional practice.
3. Developmental assessment skills.
4. Written communication skills.
5. Critical thinking skills.

## Admissions

All students must meet the University requirements as outlined in the Admission to the TWU Graduate School (<https://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/graduate-school/admission-graduate-school/>) section of the catalog.

The academic program may have additional admission criteria that must also be completed as outlined on the program's website.

## Degree Requirements

### Total Semester Credit Hours Required

**Thesis Option:** 30 semester credit hours (SCH)

**Professional Option:** 31 semester credit hours (SCH) - Program available in an accelerated format (7-week semesters).

### Special Requirements

No grade below B is accepted towards any graduate degree in the Department of Human Development, Family Studies, and Counseling (HDFSC). If more than one grade below B is earned while enrolled in any HDFSC graduate program, the student will be dismissed from the program and will be ineligible to re-enroll in any program within the department for a period of 6 years.

### Final Examination

Students choosing the thesis option must complete an independent research project and participate in an oral defense of the completed thesis. Students choosing the professional option must complete a

professional portfolio in their last semester. Theses and portfolios are reviewed and evaluated by each student's advisory committee. The advisory committee should consist of three faculty members, all of whom must hold Graduate Faculty status, and at least two of whom must be faculty from the Child Development program.

## Thesis Option (30 semester credit hours)

Code	Title	SCHs
<b>Core</b>		
HDFS 5113	Theories of Child Development	3
HDFS 5223	Child Growth and Development in Early Childhood	3
HDFS 5243	Adolescent Development Within the Family	3
HDFS 5643	The Development of Infants and Toddlers	3
<b>Research</b>		
HDFS 5193	Statistics for Family Sciences	3
HDFS 5693	Research Methods in Family Sciences	3
HDFS 5983	Thesis	3
HDFS 5993	Thesis	3
<b>Content Specialization</b>		
HDFS 5593	Play, Development, and the Young Learner	3
HDFS 5613	Child Guidance	3
<b>Total SCHs</b>		<b>30</b>

## Professional Option (31 semester credit hours)

Program available in an accelerated format (7-week semesters).

Code	Title	SCHs
<b>Core</b>		
HDFS 5113	Theories of Child Development	3
HDFS 5223	Child Growth and Development in Early Childhood	3
HDFS 5243	Adolescent Development Within the Family	3
HDFS 5643	The Development of Infants and Toddlers	3
<b>Research</b>		
HDFS 5193	Statistics for Family Sciences	3
HDFS 5693	Research Methods in Family Sciences	3
<b>Content Specialization</b>		
HDFS 5593	Play, Development, and the Young Learner	3
HDFS 5613	Child Guidance	3
<b>Professional Development</b>		
Select two of the following		6
HDFS 5013	Grief, Loss, and Bereavement	
ECE 5263	Observation and Assessment in Early Childhood	
ECE 5413	Leadership, Advocacy and Public Policy for Young Children	
ECE 5433	Brain-Based Learning for the Young Child	
ECE 5773	School, Family, and Cultural Diversity: Community Connections	
HDFS 5573	Family Crises	
HDFS 5933	Practicum in Family Sciences	

### Graduation Requirement

2 Master of Science in Child Development

HDFS 5931	Professional Portfolio	1
<b>Total SCHs</b>		<b>31</b>