

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & FAMILY SCIENCE

College of Human Sciences — Auburn University



In **HDFS**, we study social, cultural, and environmental factors that influence individual development and family relationships. Our multidisciplinary approach centers the family system to understand development across the lifespan and offer real-world solutions to the challenges families face. Our graduate programs prepare *difference makers* who generate, disseminate, and apply science to improve the lives of individuals and families in diverse contexts. We train and launch scholars, clinicians, community leaders, family life educators, and policy specialists.

Apply to Our Programs

Human Development & Family Science

The **MS HDFS** and **PhD HDFS** programs focus on understanding the connections between individuals, relationships, communities, and health across the life course. With training in research and theory, students launch into diverse careers often focused on research, evaluation, and application.

Application Deadline **January 5th**

Marriage & Family Therapy

The **MS Marriage and Family Therapy** program is COAMFTE-accredited and equips students to use culturally informed, relational perspectives to serve diverse clients on a variety of presenting issues. Students are prepared to be research-informed clinicians.

Application Deadline **December 15th**

Why Auburn HDFS?

- Admitted HDFS and MFT students receive assistantship opportunities which include a stipend, tuition remission, and health insurance discounts. Assistantships are renewable annually.
- **Research funding** and travel support are available.
- There are opportunities to design a program of study to fit your career goals. Students can receive certificates in **research methods**, **health equity science**, and **college/university teaching** among others.

What types of research opportunities are available?

- Infancy and early child development
- Adolescent development and risk-taking
- Peer bullying and bullying prevention efforts
- Aging and well-being
- Healthy couple relationships
- Sleep health among children, adolescents, and parents
- Supports for military families
- Responses to family and social stress
- Substance use and substance use prevention programs
- Parent-child relationships and parenting education programs
- Health behaviors and illness in the context of couple relationships



AUBURN
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Applicants are encouraged to review faculty research interests and reach out to prospective mentors.

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READY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR GRADUATE PROGRAMS? ATTEND OUR VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

We invite you to join us for 1 of our virtual information sessions that will be hosted in November. Attendees will be in breakout rooms based on their programmatic interests (HDFS or MFT) and have an opportunity to talk with the director and faculty from that program.

Questions are welcomed during these sessions.

Meeting 1 – Registration

Nov 3, 2025 at 7:00 PM CST



<https://aub.ie/openhouseNov3>

Meeting 2 – Registration

Nov 12, 2025 at 9:00 AM CST



<https://aub.ie/openhouseNov12>

READY TO APPLY? ATTEND OUR VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

1

Review the HDFS department specific requirements on our HDFS page.

2

Then, visit the application portal on the Graduate School Admissions page.