

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about Masters Degrees in Family Life and Youth Development (FYD)

When did the program change its name and format?

The former graduate program in Human Development and Family Studies (administered jointly with UNC-G) was discontinued at the end of Second summer Session 2010. The new program in Family Life and Youth Development (FYD) was approved by University of North Carolina administration in May 2010; courses in the new program begin in Fall Semester 2010.

Is the program totally distance based?

The new FYD program was approved as a distance based program. Most FYD courses are taught asynchronously via the Internet, often with 3-5 synchronous class meetings using Elluminate (a webinar software program) that are also recorded for students who are unable to participate synchronously. However, the Supervised Professional Experience and Thesis Hours courses are not distance.

What is the difference between the M.R. and M.S. degrees?

The Master of Science (M.S.) in Family Life and Youth Development requires 36 total credit hours of course work, including a culminating thesis and oral examination. The M.S. option requires graduate courses in statistics and research methods, and would prepare students who wish to go on to pursue a subsequent Ph.D./Ed.D. The Master (M.R.) of Family Life and Youth Development requires only 30 hours of course work and a culminating oral exam and capstone professional experience/project. It would be considered a terminal degree by most graduate programs.

May I take classes without actually being accepted into the FYD Program?

Students may enroll in courses as non-degree students (NDS) without being formally accepted into the program as non-degree students. A maximum of 12 credit hours of NDS coursework in FYD may be transferred into the program, providing that (1) the courses meet a FYD program requirement and (2) the student earns a grade of "B" or better. To enroll as a NDS, please see <http://www.ncsu.edu/nds/index.html> The NDS option is advised for students who wish to apply to the FYD Program but have low/marginal undergraduate GPA's, or who have been out of school for some time.

How do I apply to the FYD Program?

All potential graduate students apply directly to the NC State University Graduate School at <http://www.ncsu.edu/applygrad> Applicants indicate the FYD Program as their requested graduate degree program in the NCSU Graduate Application.

What are the applications deadlines?

Applications to the FYD Program are reviewed twice annually on March 15 and October 15.

What is required in the application?

In addition to all NC State Graduate School admission requirements (i.e., the formal Application and the application fee), the Department also requires: (1) GRE scores not

more than five years old, (2) three academic references, and (3) a 500-800 word Statement of Current/Future Career Goals. The Statement should indicate whether the applicant is interested in the thesis (M.S.) or non-thesis (M.R.) option, and which Concentration(s) they plan to pursue. The Graduate School requires a 3.00 average (4.00 scale) in the undergraduate program. The most qualified applicants will be accepted up to the number of spaces that are available for new students. NOTE: Exceptions to the minimum grade point average and lower-than-desired GRE scores may be made for students with special backgrounds, abilities, circumstances, and interests.

What if I miss the next deadline, or my application is incomplete as of the application deadline?

Only applications that are complete as of the review date are considered for that admission period. Incomplete applications must be completed by the applicant and will be considered at the next application deadline. Applicants with incomplete applications but who wish to begin taking FYD classes may register as Non-Degree Students (NDS; please see above).

What happens if I get accepted?

If your application is accepted, you will first be notified via e-mail within 1-2 weeks of the application deadline by the FYD Director of Graduate Programs (DGP), Dr. R. Dale Safrit. He will give you instructions regarding your graduate adviser, and applying you're your official NC State e-mail address (Unity ID). Then, within 3-4 weeks you will be contacted directly via e-mail by the NC State Graduate School, with instructions regarding how to indicate your acceptance, deferral, or rejections of the admissions offer.

What if I do not get accepted?

Many variables may affect the decision to not accept an applicant into the program (e.g., low undergraduate GPA, low GRE scores, etc.) However, students are then encouraged to reapply after first taking 1-3 FYD courses as Non-Degree Students (NDS) to demonstrate their ability to succeed in graduate level courses, and/or to improve their GPA. Or, an applicant may be advised to re-take the GRE.

What is the cost of tuition?

To review the current NC State University tuition rates for graduate programs, please see <http://www.fis.ncsu.edu/cashier/tuition/>

What financial aid is available?

Unfortunately, no financial aid is available directly from the Department, nor does the Department offer Graduate Research or Teaching Assistantships (GRA's and GTA's) since this is a distance program. GTA's in targeted content areas and part-time hourly work are sometimes available from individual faculty who receive external grants and contracts, and are advertised to students enrolled in the FYD Program by the individual faculty. Other financial aid is available from the NC State Office of Financial Aid and on a competitive basis from the NC State Graduate School. Students seeking financial aid should contact directly the NC State Financial Aid Office at <http://www.ncsu.edu/grad/financial-support/index.php>