

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

Family Life & Youth Development (FYD) Graduate Certificate Programs
in
Program Development in Family Life Education,
Youth Development Leadership,
Volunteer Management and Administration,
Administration and Leadership – Family and Youth Programs,
Family Life & Parent Education,
Gerontology, and
Family Life Coaching

What are graduate certificate programs?

Graduate certificate programs are an alternative to a full master's degree. Our certificate programs are designed to prepare professionals to better serve in their roles as family life and parent educators and youth professionals.

What's the difference between NC State's Family Life & Youth Development (FYD) graduate certificates and Family Life & Youth Development (FYD) master's degree?

The master's degree (non-thesis/thesis options) requires 30 or 36 credit hours of coursework and may include a thesis, whereas our graduate certificates only require 12 credit hours of coursework. Courses required for the certificates can be applied to our master's degree program. To learn more about the master's degree program, visit <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/fcs/masters/>

How much does it cost to apply?

There is a \$25 application fee to apply to the graduate certificate programs.

What is the deadline for submitting applications?

There are no deadlines for submitting applications for admittance to FYD graduate certificate programs; you can submit your application anytime.

How long before I hear whether or not I'm accepted?

Applications are reviewed on a continual, as needed basis. You can expect notification regarding the status of your acceptance within several weeks of your completed application being received.

Do I have to be accepted before I can start taking classes?

NC State allows students to take up to nine (9) credit hours of coursework without being accepted to a program (degree or non-degree). Non-Degree Studies (NDS)-Post-Baccalaureate Studies (PBS) students must complete an online application before becoming eligible to register for courses. Simply follow the steps outlined at <http://www.ncsu.edu/nds/>.

How much of the coursework is offered by distance education?

Most (approximately 90%) of the coursework required for FYD graduate certificate programs use a distance education format. Some courses require students to attend face-to-face meetings

(4-5 per semester). Face-to-face class participation requirements are included in course descriptions.

What if I can't attend a face-to-face meeting?

Students who are not able to attend required face-to-face meetings should discuss their situation with their instructors and make arrangements to complete all required coursework.

Can I attend class on campus if I want?

Students enrolled in online courses *may* have the option to attend face-to-face sessions. Teaching faculty will inform students of this option at the onset of each semester.

Can I apply to a FYD graduate certificate program after I've taken a course or several courses?

Yes, you can apply to any FYD graduate certificate program after taking a course or several courses.

Can I still apply even if my undergraduate degree is in an unrelated field?

Yes, you can apply to any FYD certificate program even if your undergraduate degree is in another field. The only requirements concerning previous degrees are the following:

- 1.) you must have completed a baccalaureate degree program
- 2.) your overall GPA at the time you graduated was at least 2.75

What if I change my mind and decide I want to get a master's degree?

You can apply to the FYD master's degree program at anytime.

Can taking classes in a FYD graduate certificate program help me get accepted to the FYD master's degree program?

Successful graduate certificate program coursework will not guarantee acceptance to the FYD master's degree program; however, it will be considered as part of your total application package.

How much does it cost to take classes?

Cost will vary depending on the number of hours and the types of classes you take. For information about tuition and fees visit <http://www.fis.ncsu.edu/cashier/>.

Is financial aid available for certificate programs?

Because certificate programs are not degree programs, financial aid options are limited. If you need financial assistance, contact NCSU's Financial Aid Department http://www7.acs.ncsu.edu/financial_aid/. Staff can advise you of your options and provide names of reputable (educational) loan programs. They are also available to help students decipher the terms of loans.

How do I find out about important dates like when to register and when classes begin and end?

Visit <http://www.ncsu.edu/registrar/> and select "Registration Information."

How do I know what classes are offered and when?

Visit <http://www.ncsu.edu/registrar/> select “Courses.”

How do I apply to the FYD graduate certificate programs?

Visit any of these sites to begin the application process:

<http://www.ncsu.edu/applygrad>

<http://distance.ncsu.edu/programs/certificate-programs.php>

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