

# Family and Consumer Sciences Education

Family and consumer sciences education is a major in the College of Education and Human Ecology that meets requirements for Ohio teacher licensure in Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS). FCS educators empower individuals and families to manage challenges of living and working in a diverse, global society throughout their lives. The unique focus of this discipline is on families, work, and their relationships.

FCS teachers are often called Work and Family Life teachers in Ohio and they teach nutrition and wellness, parenting, personal development, family relations, life planning, and resource management in middle and high schools.

Students pursuing this interdisciplinary major take course work across the college in educational policy and leadership, family and consumer sciences education, family resource management, hospitality management, human development and family science, human nutrition, physical activity and educational services, teaching and learning, and fashion and retail studies.

## Pursuing Family and Consumer Sciences Education at Ohio State

High school students interested in this major should complete a college preparatory program in high school. Good written and verbal skills are very important. Experience with programs serving young children, youth, adults, and families in school and community settings is valuable and desirable.

All freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus. The primary criteria for admission are the completion of the applicant's high school college preparatory program, performance in that program as indicated by class rank and/or grade-point average, and performance on either the ACT or SAT.

Students who come to Ohio State to study family and consumer sciences education can directly enroll as pre-majors in the family and consumer sciences education program within the School of Physical Activity and Educational Services (PAES) if they meet one of the following criteria: a minimum ACT composite score of 23, SAT combined Critical Reading and Math scores of 1030, or a rank in the top 35 percent of their high school class. To be considered for admission to the program, students must meet a minimum criteria. For more information visit [ehe.osu.edu/fcsed](http://ehe.osu.edu/fcsed). Those students not eligible to directly enroll in the program may enroll in University Exploration. To learn more, visit [exploration.osu.edu](http://exploration.osu.edu).

## Family and Consumer Sciences Education Requirements

Family and consumer sciences education is comprised of an interdisciplinary curriculum requiring course work from across the College of Education and Human Ecology. Content course work in which students learn the content of what they will be teaching is drawn from the departments of Human Development and Family Science, Consumer Sciences, and Human Nutrition.

Students complete human development and family science course work on family development, child development, lifespan human development, and parenting. Consumer sciences course work includes consumer problems; family financial management; and fashion, the body, and popular culture. Course work in human nutrition focuses on the science of human nutrition and the fundamentals of food. Students will also select additional course work in each of these departments to gain additional content knowledge. Through these additional courses, students have the option of earning a minor in human development and family science or consumer affairs as a built-in component of the curriculum.

Students also complete a core of education course work on the school and society, teaching reading across the curriculum, educational psychology, computer applications in education, and exceptional children. Finally, in the family and consumer sciences education course work, students will meet the following objectives:

- Study teaching methods specific to the secondary FCS curriculum
- Gain an understanding of problem-based instruction
- Learn how to construct culturally sensitive learning environments
- Complete three field experiences in school settings prior to student teaching

The field experiences are all in different school environments (suburban/urban, middle/high school) in order for students to experience diverse school settings in preparation for student teaching and their careers as teachers.

## Co-Curricular Opportunities

Students in family and consumer sciences education have the opportunity to become involved in many enriching experiences outside the classroom. Leaders in Family and Consumer Sciences Education (LFCSE) is a student organization geared towards students with an interest in family and consumer sciences Education. In addition to LFCSE, students are also able to get involved in the Ohio State Education Association, Kappa Phi Kappa (a co-ed education fraternity), and any of the hundreds of other organizations at Ohio State.

The Human Ecology Learning Community also provides an opportunity for students to interact with others who share their professional interests by living in a residence hall community with other students of the same major. Students in the learning community gain increased interaction with faculty members and upper-class students, and a stronger connection with the college. Ohio State also offers more than 100 study abroad programs in 40 countries around the world.

These opportunities enable students to gain valuable experience, learn about cultures, and take on leadership roles before entering the workforce, which may provide an advantage in the job market.

## For more information, check these websites:

Family and Consumer Sciences Education: [ehe.osu.edu/fcsed](http://ehe.osu.edu/fcsed)  
 School of Physical Activity and Educational Sciences:  
[ehe.osu.edu/paes](http://ehe.osu.edu/paes)  
 College of Education and Human Ecology: [ehe.osu.edu](http://ehe.osu.edu)

Ohio State: [osu.edu](http://osu.edu)  
 Admissions: [undergrad.osu.edu](http://undergrad.osu.edu)  
 Multicultural Center: [multiculturalcenter.osu.edu](http://multiculturalcenter.osu.edu)  
 First Year Experience: [fye.osu.edu](http://fye.osu.edu)

## Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student may take to pursue a degree in Family and Consumer Sciences Education. Since university students need more than specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete General Education (GE) requirements. Because GE courses come from a variety of academic areas of study, this course work helps students develop fundamental skills essential to collegiate success and allows them to tailor these courses toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in Family and Consumer Sciences Education. Visit [ehe.osu.edu/fcsed](http://ehe.osu.edu/fcsed) for details on each specific track.

### Freshman Year:

Survey course  
Science of Human Nutrition  
Economics  
Family Development  
Lifespan Human Development  
GE courses

### Sophomore Year:

FCS Field Experience  
Child Development  
Fashion, the Body, and Popular Culture  
GE courses

### Junior Year:

Teaching Reading across the Curriculum  
Fundamentals of Food  
School and Society  
Family Financial Management  
Parenting  
Psychological Perspectives on Education  
Statistics  
FCS specialization courses

### Senior Year:

Introduction to Exceptional Children  
Computer Applications in Education  
Consumer Problems  
Problem Based Learning  
Instruction for Effective Learning  
Accommodating Diversity  
Workplace Education  
Culturally Responsive Teaching  
Teaching/Learning Context  
Student Teaching

## Honors & Scholars Opportunities

The College of Education and Human Ecology offers an Honors program for students of high academic ability. The Honors program allows for individualized program structured to meet students' learning objectives and provides an opportunity for students to work with faculty to design and perform research. Through an understanding of the core course work and effective research methods, this individualized plan of study helps students experience professional growth and increased knowledge. In addition to undergraduate research opportunities and close working relationships with faculty, Honors students also have access to smaller classes, priority scheduling, and unique housing opportunities.

The Ohio State Scholars Programs feature close-knit, residential communities for students who share common interests. Many family and consumer science education majors participate in the Tomorrow's Teachers Scholars Program.

Honors and Scholars programs represent great opportunities to be part of a smaller community within a large university. Learn more at [honors-scholars.osu.edu](http://honors-scholars.osu.edu).

## Career Opportunities in Family and Consumer Sciences Education

The career opportunities for graduates of this major may include Family and Consumer Sciences Education/4-H Extension Agent in one of Ohio's 88 counties, teaching family and consumer sciences in middle and high schools, or teaching pregnant and parenting teens (GRADS) in a school setting, or informal and adult educational settings such as state and local family life programs. There is a great need in Ohio and across the nation for family and consumer sciences education teachers and extension agents.

With professional experience and sometimes additional college course work, graduates may consider specialized employment in the military, in Joint Vocational Schools, with community and social service agencies serving individuals and families from the very young to the older adult, in business and industry settings, in supervision and administration, in some colleges and universities, in consulting positions within corporations, in governmental agencies both in the United States and international settings, and in media and public relations.

Beginning salaries for graduates of this major range on average from \$33,700 to \$35,100, depending upon the candidate's skills, professional related experiences, and the salary scale of the school district or Extension position in question.

**Revised December 2011.** Information subject to change. For the most up-to-date information about the family and consumer sciences education program, please visit [ehe.osu.edu/fcsed](http://ehe.osu.edu/fcsed).

## Contact information:

Office of Student and Alumni Services  
School of Physical Activity and Educational Services  
A100 PAES Building | 305 West 17th Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43210-1224 | (614) 292-6787