

# CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES

## What can I do with this degree?

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
<p><b><u>PRE-SCHOOL/DAYCARE</u></b> Teaching Administration</p>	<p>Religious organizations Montessori schools Private, public, franchise, and corporate day care centers Private homes Family day care Extended school programs Preschools Head Start programs</p>	<p>Develop physical stamina for working with children. Acquire appropriate certification or licensure for day care and public school teaching. Obtain experience working with children through volunteering or part-time jobs. Demonstrate patience with children and the ability to work well with people of various backgrounds. Develop strong communications skills to deal effectively with parents.</p>
<p><b><u>COMMUNITY SERVICES</u></b> Administration Development Programming Research Evaluation</p>	<p>Community centers YMCA or YWCA Consumer protection agencies Summer camp programs Adult day care providers Hospitals Rehabilitation organizations Religious organizations Adoption agencies</p>	<p>Seek related work experience, particularly summer camps or special needs areas. Learn to work well with all types of people through volunteer or paid positions. Obtain Child Life Certification for some areas. Develop strong presentation and public speaking skills. Be willing to wear multiple hats within an organization. Learn how to write grants. Develop research and writing skills.</p>
<p><b><u>SOCIAL SERVICES</u></b> Case Management Counseling Administration</p>	<p>Profit and nonprofit organizations focused on children, youth, families, or senior citizens Adult and child day care providers Group homes Half-way houses Youth services agencies Senior citizens' programs Foundations and funding organizations</p>	<p>Supplement curriculum with courses in social work, sociology, or psychology. Obtain a master's degree and appropriate licensure in mental health counseling, social work, or rehabilitation counseling to provide therapy. Earn a graduate degree to obtain most administrative positions. Gain experience through volunteer positions or internships.</p>

<b>AREAS</b>	<b>EMPLOYERS</b>	<b>STRATEGIES</b>
<b><u>EDUCATION</u></b> Teaching Early Childhood Education Early Childhood Special Education Home Economics Family and Consumer Sciences Curriculum Development Research Counseling Administration College Student Affairs Parent-Child Education	Public and private schools (K-12) Public preschool programs (e.g., Head Start) Private preschool programs Montessori schools Adult education programs Colleges and universities Programs servicing children and adults with special needs	Acquire appropriate certification for public school teaching. Obtain Ph.D. for college and university teaching and research opportunities. Acquire certification for day care and parent-child education. Obtain graduate degree for counseling, student affairs, and administrative positions. Find part-time or summer jobs working with children. Serve as a tutor, peer mentor, resident assistant or student advisor.
<b><u>MEDICAL</u></b> Child Care Programs Education	Hospitals Healthcare facilities Health and wellness agencies Hospices	Earn a master's degree in Social Work, Counseling, or related areas for the most opportunities. Obtain experience in advocacy. Acquire licensing or certification for some areas. Volunteer in a healthcare setting.
<b><u>BUSINESS</u></b> Management Sales Customer Service	Manufacturing companies of children's clothes, toys, furniture, and food Department and retail stores Service organizations	Minor in business; develop skills in areas such as management, marketing or sales. Secure leadership positions on campus. Get related experience through internships or part-time jobs. Build computer skills in word processing, database management, and spreadsheet programs.
<b><u>COMMUNICATIONS</u></b> Journalism Public Relations Writing Editing Research	Organizations geared toward children and family including: Book publishers Professional associations Radio and TV stations Nonprofit organizations Manufacturers Newspapers Magazines	Minor or double major in a communications field. Develop excellent communication skills, both written and verbal. Submit articles or books for publication. Work for campus publications or radio stations. Complete internships with related organizations.

## AREAS

### **GOVERNMENT**

Social Services  
Rehabilitation  
Program Coordination  
Research  
Program Evaluation  
Legislation  
Advocacy

## EMPLOYERS

Federal, state and local government agencies (i.e.,  
Departments of Health, Education and  
Welfare, Criminal Justice Departments,  
Sanitation, Fire/Safety, Nutrition, and Cooperative  
Extension)  
Vocational rehabilitation  
Mental health agencies  
Military child care programs  
Overseas child care and education programs  
Health and wellness agencies  
Women's protective agencies

## STRATEGIES

Take additional courses in area of interest.  
Develop strong presentation and public speaking  
skills.  
Obtain specialized training for opportunities in  
protective services or law enforcement.  
Complete an internship with a government  
organization.  
Learn federal, state, and local job application  
procedures.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- Bachelor's degree is sufficient for entry-level positions.
- Advanced degrees are essential for clinical and therapeutic counseling positions.
- Master's degree or Ph.D. is often needed for administrative and supervisory positions.
- Ph.D. is required for college teaching and advanced research positions.
- Additional or specialized training qualifies one for higher paying and positions of greater responsibility.
- Obtain part-time, summer, internship, or volunteer experience in child care, schools, hospitals, camps, or overseas programs or in advocacy or service-oriented programs dealing with alcoholism, drug abuse, family violence, aging, poor, or disabled populations.
- Obtain certification in CPR, safety, and first aid for adults, children, and infants.
- Develop interest and gain experience in computers, arts, crafts, music, or physical activity.
- Obtain certification for specialized areas including Child Life Specialist or Child Advocacy.