

HARDING UNIVERSITY

Family Life Education

Department of Family and Consumer Sciences
College of Sciences



Degree: B.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences Education

Contact:

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Olen Hendrix

Description of Major

Family life Education focuses on healthy family functioning within a family systems perspective and provides a primarily preventive approach. The skills and knowledge needed for healthy functioning are widely known: strong communication skills, knowledge of typical human development, good decision-making skills, positive self-esteem, and healthy interpersonal relationships. The goal of family life education is to teach and foster this knowledge and these skills to enable individuals and families to function optimally. Family life education professionals consider societal issues including economics, education, work-family issues, parenting, sexuality, gender and more within the context of the family. They believe that societal problems such as substance abuse, domestic violence, unemployment, debt, and child abuse can be more effectively addressed from a perspective that considers the individual and family as part of larger systems. Knowledge about healthy family functioning can be applied to prevent or minimize many of these problems. Family life education provides this information through an education approach, often in a classroom-type setting or through educational materials. (NCFR, 2010)

Outside the Classroom

Students are encouraged to join the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences and the Arkansas Affiliate. This student organization sponsors trips to state and national conferences where students can interact with professionals in the field. High-achieving students may be selected for membership in Kappa Omicron Nu, an honorary society that recognizes scholarship in the field of family and consumer sciences. Harding's chapter of KON is Nu Delta. The professional associations and honor societies provide excellent opportunities for students to develop leadership skills.

**Bachelor of Sciences Degree
Family Life Education Major (FLED)**

REQUIREMENTS	HOURS
Liberal Arts:	47
Student must take PSY 201 and SOC 203. These are counted below in the hours required for the major.	
FCS Program Foundations:	6
FCS 100, 205, 400	
Family and Consumer Sciences Core:	62
BDOC 354; COMO 260; FCS 240, 251, 267 (Must be taken for 3 credit hours to meet program requirements), 322, 323, 331,340, 352, 391, 426, 427, 430; IS 101; POLS 205; PSY 201; SOC 203; SWK 345, 395, 410	
Electives:	7
Remaining Bible:	6
TOTAL HOURS	128

Employment Opportunities

Family life educators work in a variety of settings. They bring comprehensive family training to a myriad of employment sectors and job classifications. Often, CFLEs work in the following venues.

- Practice
 - Teaching
 - Education
 - Program or curricula development
- Administration
 - Leadership or management
 - Organizing
 - Coordinating
- Promotion
 - Public policy
 - Lobbying
 - Advocating for system change and awareness

Examples of job titles include:

- Family Advocate
- Family Life Assistant
- Family Life Educator
- Family Program Coordinator
- Geriatric Specialist
- Head Start Regional Manager
- Head Start Regional Specialist
- Hospital Activity Therapist
- Independent Living Instructor
- Life Skills Specialist

JUST TO NAME A FEW!