

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN FAMILY STUDIES

<https://www.una.edu/sociology/ms-in-family-studies-.html>

The Master of Science in Family Studies Degree is an online program intended to meet the educational needs of professionals who wish to serve children and families in family and social service agencies. The Family Studies graduate program seeks to train students to be effective leaders in these organizations by providing students with a strong background in research, application, and family studies content.

Non-majors may enroll in a total of six credit hours within the discipline with department approval. Students wishing to take additional courses must seek department approval from the graduate program coordinator prior to registration.

Admission

In addition to the general requirements for admission to graduate studies (see General Regulations and Procedures), admission to the Master of Science Degree program in Family Studies requires the following:

1. Test scores: submission of satisfactory scores prior to admission on either the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) or on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE); recommended minimum score of 388 on the MAT or a minimum GRE score of 146 on the Verbal and 140 on the Quantitative portions of the exam. (See web site for sliding scale of acceptable test scores and grades.)
2. Scholastic achievement: minimum overall grade point average of 3.0 (4.0 scale) is recommended on undergraduate work. (See web site for sliding scale of acceptable test scores and grades.)
3. Preparation: must hold a bachelor's degree or higher from an institution that meets the general admission requirements for graduate study at UNA.
4. International Credentials: candidates holding a bachelor's degree, a graduate degree or the equivalent from an institution outside the United States of America must submit a WES, ECE, or other approved international credential evaluation.
5. References: three professional references must complete our Recommendation for Admission form using the online admissions system. At least one recommendation form must be completed by a current or former faculty member who can attest to the student's academic abilities
6. Resume: candidates must submit a record of employment and volunteer activities.
7. Application essay: candidates must submit a letter of intent that outlines the reasons they are interested in the program and how it aligns with their professional goals.
8. Professional writing sample: candidates must submit a paper that best reflects their writing and critical thinking skills, typically chosen from undergraduate work.

The Department of Sociology and Family Studies recommends a minimum GPA of 3.0 and a minimum test score (388/MAT or GRE 146/verbal and 140/quantitative) for admission to the graduate program. Applicants with less than the recommended GPA or the recommended test score may be admitted based on the sliding scale below.

GPA	MAT	GRE Verbal	GRE Quantitative
3.91 - 4.00	378	138	136
3.81 - 3.90	379	139	136
3.71 - 3.80	380	140	136
3.61 - 3.70	381	141	137
3.51 - 3.60	382	142	137
3.41 - 3.50	383	143	138
3.31 - 3.40	384	143	138

GPA	MAT	GRE Verbal	GRE Quantitative
3.21 - 3.30	385	144	138
3.11 - 3.20	386	145	139
3.01 - 3.10	387	146	139
3.0	388	146	140
2.90 - 2.99	390	148	140
2.80 - 2.89	392	149	141
2.70 - 2.79	394	151	142
2.60 - 2.69	396	152	143
2.50 - 2.59	398	153	144

Advisement

Students will complete a plan of study in Families Studies Graduate Orientation (FS 500) with the assistance of the Family Studies Graduate Program Coordinator.

Non-Majors

Non-majors will be limited to a total of six hours within the discipline and all courses selected require departmental approval.

Degree and Program Plans

Master of Science Degree in Family Studies requires a minimum of 31 semester hours of credit, to include the following:

Code	Title	Hours
FS 500	Families Studies Graduate Orientation	1
FS 600	Research Methods in Family Studies	3
FS 601	Applied Statistics in Family Studies	3
FS 602	Family Theories	3
FS 604	Family and Social Policy	3
FS 606	Family Problems and Methods of Intervention	3
FS 599	Independent Study-Practicum	3
FS 698	Comprehensive Examination	0

Elective Courses (12 hours of the following or advisor approved graduate course work)

FS 501	Family Life Education	3
FS 510	Family Diversity and Social Change	3
FS 543	Social Psychology of Intimate Relationships	3
FS 605	Contemporary Topics in Family Studies	3

Total Hours 31

Thesis or Non-Thesis

Select one from the following:

Non-Thesis Option (p. 2)

Thesis Option (p. 2)

Non-Thesis Option¹

Code	Title	Hours
FS 698	Comprehensive Examination	0

¹ Students completing the Non-Thesis Option must, in the last semester in which all other course requirements are expected to be completed, register for Comprehensive Examination (FS 698) (Comprehensive Examination) in order to take a written comprehensive examination prior to graduation in order to complete the program.

Thesis Option¹

Code	Title	Hours
FS 695	Thesis	6
FS 699	Thesis Defense	0

¹ In addition to the courses above, students who request and receive permission to complete the Thesis Option must complete a minimum of 6 semester hours of Thesis (FS 695) and register for Thesis Defense (FS 699) during the last semester in which all other course requirements are expected to be completed. Thesis students will not be required to take Comprehensive Examination (FS 698).