PHD PROGRAMS IN HDFS

Exceptional, research-focused candidates with a bachelor’s or master’s degree are invited to apply to our innovative, leading-edge programs. Through rigorous coursework in theory and methods, students will become advanced consumers and producers of research, preparing them for top placements in tenure-stream positions across the nation. Our doctoral students have been placed in institutions such as Northwestern University, University of Wisconsin, and University of Alabama.

Students will work with faculty on research locally, nationally, and globally to improve the lives of individuals, families, and communities. For example, students are working with faculty funded by the Institute of Education Sciences to improve early learning opportunities for children in Flint and with faculty funded by the National Institutes of Health to improve healthy development of ethnic minority youth.

Specializations:
- The Child Development program provides leading-edge training in early childhood development and education.
- The Lifespan Human Development and Family Diversity program focuses on critical developmental processes and outcomes across the lifespan with a concentration in diversity.
- The Couple and Family Therapy program is committed to training students to become leaders in the field as exceptional researchers, excellent clinicians, and effective educators. Incoming students must hold a master’s degree.

Funding Package:
Accepted candidates are eligible for at least four years of funding, including tuition, living stipend, and health insurance. In addition, students are eligible to receive scholarships and travel funding for research.

Our University:
As a world-renowned university in the Association of American Universities and the Big Ten Academic Alliance, Michigan State University is home to more than 50,000 students from all 50 states and 133 countries. Located along the banks of the Red Cedar River in East Lansing, MSU offers miles of beautiful trails and landscape, an active arts culture, and vibrant collegiate athletics.

APPLICATION CRITERIA

Once an application is complete, each application will be reviewed using the following criteria:
- Prior educational and professional achievements
- Societal impact of academic and career goals as stated in the academic and personal statements
- Fit with program goals and research interests of faculty in the department
- Alignment with a faculty advisor who is available to mentor the candidate

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications are due December 1, 2018. Please visit https://hdfs.msu.edu/ or contact Dr. Erica Tobe, Graduate Director, tobee@msu.edu.
TIPS FOR APPLYING

Quick tips for applying to an HDFS PhD program:

- Review faculty biographies on the HDFS website (https://hdfs.msu.edu/people/faculty) and determine if your interests align with the faculty expertise of the department.
- Contact a faculty member that you may align with and communicate with them before submitting your application.
- Ask to speak with an MSU graduate student to ensure this graduate program can help you reach your goals.
- Review program requirements and ensure letters of reference are academic and professional in nature.
- When developing your personal and academic statements, clearly incorporate your research interests into both statements. The purpose of your personal statement should address why you want to join the department; the academic statement should support how you have prepared academically for graduate school.

FACULTY CURRENTLY ACCEPTING STUDENTS

Sarah M. Douglas, Ph.D.
Areas of Interest:
- Communication
- Autism
- Developmental disabilities
- Paraprofessionals
Email: s.douglas@msu.edu

Kendal Holtrop, Ph.D.
Areas of Interest:
- Parenting
- Evidence-based parenting interventions
- Community-based research
- Underserved families
Email: holtropk@msu.edu

Heather L. McCaul, Sc.D., M.S.
Areas of Interest:
- Adolescent development
- Relationship violence
- Health
- Marginalized youth
Email: mcaulik9@msu.edu

Adrian Blow, Ph.D.
Areas of Interest:
- Common factors
- Therapist factors
- Military families
- Interventions for trauma
Email: blowav@msu.edu

Ryan P. Bowles, Ph.D.
Areas of Interest:
- Early Childhood
- Language and literacy
- Measurement and assessment
- Statistical Methods
Email: bowlesr@msu.edu

Desiree Baslian Qin, Ed.D.
Areas of Interest:
- Parenting and immigrant families
- Adolescent development and culture
- Educational and psychosocial developmental outcomes
Email: dqin@msu.edu

Hope K. Gerde, Ph.D.
Areas of Interest:
- Relations between early writing and reading development
- Teacher influences on children's language and literacy
- Distance learning approaches to early childhood teacher professional development
Email: hgerde@msu.edu

Yijie Wang, Ph.D.
Areas of Interest:
- Adolescent development
- Psychological and physiological well-being
- Ethnic/racial socialization and identity, discrimination
Email: yijwang@msu.edu

Megan K. Maas, Ph.D.
Areas of Interest:
- Sexual development
- Technology use
- Gender socialization
- Sexual violence prevention
Email: maasmeg@msu.edu

Amy K. Nuttall, Ph.D.
Areas of Interest:
- Family stress contexts
- Intergenerational transmission of parenting
- Sibling relationships
- Resilient family processes and child developmental outcomes
Email: nuttall@msu.edu

Andrea K. Wittenborn, Ph.D.
Areas of Interest:
- Depression
- Personalized intervention
- Mobile phone screening and intervention
- Emotionally-Focused Therapy (EFT)
Email: andrew@msu.edu

Francisco A. Villarroel, Ph.D.
Areas of Interest:
- Youth policy
- Juvenile justice
- Latino youth
Email: frvillarroel@hdfs.msu.edu

Lori Skibbe, Ph.D.
Areas of Interest:
- Literacy and language development
- Self-regulation
- Early education
- Assessment
Email: skibbelo@msu.edu

Claire D. Vallotton, Ph.D.
Areas of Interest:
- Infants and toddlers
- Parenting
- Cultural socialization
- Socioemotional and language development
- Quantitative observational methodology
Email: vallotto@msu.edu

Deborah J. Johnson, Ph.D.
Areas of Interest:
- Racial-ethnic parental socialization
- Racial-identity development
- Child racial coping
- Cultural and global contexts of development
Email: johnh4422@msu.edu

Holly L. Brophy-Heerb, Ph.D.
Areas of Interest:
- Parenting and emotion socialization
- Self-regulation and emotion regulation
- Early intervention and prevention
- Infant mental health
- Reflective functioning
Email: hbrophy@msu.edu