The Lifespan Development Master’s program is designed for students who have an interest in human development over the life course. Course work focuses on the principles of development, with special emphasis on the importance of context. A thesis or non-thesis option may be chosen. Both thesis (MS) and non-thesis (MA) options are offered, but students must petition to write a thesis. The non-thesis option involves a project, internship, or exam.

Courses are selected from (36 credits total):

A. Statistics and research methods (6 hours)
   HDFS 8200: Research Methods
   Any advisor-approved statistics course 7000 level or above
B. Human development (3 hours)
   HDFS 8210: Theories of Human Development
C. Core content (15 hours)
   1. Lifespan development (12 hours)
      HDFS 7257: Aging and the Family
      HDFS 8440: Social-Emotional Development
      HDFS 8420: Cognitive Development
      HDFS 8460: Life Course Perspective
      HDFS 8450: Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood
   2. Family interaction and functioning (3 hours)
      HDFS 8640: Family Interaction
      HDFS 8012: Family Dynamics and Intervention
      HDFS 8220: Family Theories
      HDFS 7610: Stress in Families
      HDFS 7640: Interpersonal Relationships
D. Electives* (6-9 hours)
   HDFS 7720: Child and Family Advocacy
   HDFS 8300: Advanced Seminar on Multicultural Families
   HDFS 8470: Identity Development
   HDFS 8610: Remarriage and Stepfamilies
   HDFS 8620: Work and Family
   HDFS 8630: Gendered Relations in Families
   HDFS 8710: Children, Families and Public Policy
   HDFS 8770: Poverty
   *Or any advisor approved graduate level course
E. Thesis or other independent effort (3-6 hours)
   HDFS 8090: Project
   HDFS 8972: Internship
   HDFS 8999: Exam*
   HDFS 9090: Thesis

*No course credit is assigned to the exam option