An estimated 17,000 organizations (e.g., 4-H, Boys and Girls Clubs, Boys Scouts and Girls Scouts) currently serve more than 30 million young people, and national trends are moving away from focusing on problems and behavior correction, instead favoring a positive approach that focuses on developing the strengths of youth. The 36 credit master's degree program (MA) consists of 9 required core courses (25 credits), a Project or Internship experience totaling 2-6 credits, and 5-9 credits of electives. Core courses offered within the program include eight 3-credit courses and a 1-credit professional-development seminar.

**Required:**

- HDFS 7231: Foundations of Youth Development (1)
- HDFS 8234: Adolescents and their Families (3)
- HDFS 8235: Administration and Program Management (3)
- HDFS 8236: Federal and State Policies that Impact Youth Development (3)
- HDFS 8237: Youth Culture (3)
- HDFS 8239: Community Youth Development (3)
- HDFS 8240: Youth Development (3)
- HDFS 8232: Youth Professionals as Consumers of Research (3)
- HDFS 8238: Program Design, Evaluation, and Implementation (3)
- HDFS 8090: Research Project (2-6) OR HDFS 8972: Internship (2-6)

**Suggested Electives***:

- HDFS 7001: Topics in Contemporary Youth Issues: Substance Use (3)
- HDFS 7001: Topics in Contemporary Youth Issues: Global Perspectives (3)

*Or Any Adviser-Approved Course

**NOTE:** Up to 6 credits can be transferred from other graduate programs if the courses are deemed relevant by your adviser.

**Independent Effort:**

- HDFS 8972: Internship (variable) OR HDFS 8999: Exam*

*No course credit is assigned to the exam option.