



# Human Services - Child and Family Studies Concentration

## About this Composite Major



The Human Services major prepares you to meet the growing demand for human service workers, whose occupations encompass a broad range of helping professions. The program combines courses from the disciplines of communications, sociology, and psychology to provide an overall understanding of the field. The curriculum is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of human behavior and to develop the skills necessary to function as a human services professional.

The Child and Family Studies concentration in the Human Services major prepares graduates who strive to work with a wide range of client populations in a variety of settings. The curriculum provides flexibility through a broader range of multidisciplinary course options, including education, communication, psychology, sociology, management, economics, and health and physical education. After completing a core set of classes, students work with their advisor to tailor elective courses to meet their personal professional objectives.

## Meet a Student

*"I have gained many skills throughout my college career including empathy, interpersonal communication, problem solving, and analytical thinking. The biggest part of my job is interviewing clients. In order for clients to open up about scary subjects they need to feel comfortable with me. These skills have improved my interviewing, report writing, and objective analysis of family dynamics."* - Sheri Rosenau, class of 2018

*"The human services field is important because it focuses on the well-being of individuals. It helps people achieve self-sufficiency and the ability to live a better life."* - Karsyn Maine, class of 2023

## Career Opportunities



Students pursuing the Child and Family Studies concentration of the Human Services major prepare themselves for a range of careers focused on the needs of children and/or families in both for-profit and non-profit sectors. The rewarding careers include, but are not limited to:

- K-12 paraprofessional
- Preschool and daycare center management
- After-school program direction
- Work in healthcare and social services agencies

As in the general Human Services concentration, graduates also may pursue careers, including:

- Youth worker
- Social services liaison
- Director of residential facilities
- Family support worker
- Residential counselor
- Life skills instructor
- Client advocate
- Case manager
- Intake interviewer



- Community organizer
- Home health aide
- Social work (with completion of a master's degree in social work)

### Explore Human Services

National Organization for Human Services (<https://www.nationalhumanservices.org/>)

North Dakota Department of Human Services – Children & Family Services (<https://www.hhs.nd.gov/cfs/>)

United States Administration for Children & Families (<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/>)

Bureau of Labor Statistics – Community and Social Service Occupations (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/home.htm>)

### Practical Experience

Completion of an internship is required. Majors who have a cumulative GPA of 2.50 are eligible to apply for semester-long internships, for which students earn 3-12 credit hours. The internship provides supervised training in various regional agencies and service organizations. Students have completed their internships in various places, such as Head Start, K-12 public schools, Sheyenne Care Center and other long-term care facilities, and Barnes County Social Services.

### Contact Information

#### Department Chair & Faculty Contact

Dr. Emily Fenster, [emily.fenster@vcsu.edu](mailto:emily.fenster@vcsu.edu), (701) 845-7313

#### Department Location

McFarland Hall 315, (701) 845-7301

#### Schedule your visit today!

<http://visit.vcsu.edu/>

(701) 845-7101 or (800) 532-8641

### Plan of Study

#### First Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
English Composition (Gen Ed)	3	Art and Music (Gen Ed)	3
MATH 210 (Gen Ed)	3	English Composition (Gen Ed)	3
SOC 110	3	Lab Science (Gen Ed)	4
Speech Communication (Gen Ed)	3	PSYC 111 (Gen Ed)	3
Computer Science and Literacy (Gen Ed)	3	Wellness (Gen Ed)	2
UNIV 150	1		
	<b>16</b>		<b>15</b>

#### Second Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Additional Humanities or Social Science (Gen Ed)	2	MRKT 301 or COMM 314	3
Lab Science (Gen Ed)	4	SOC 130	3
Literacies (Gen Ed)	3	SOC 220	3
Social Science (Gen Ed)	3	PSYC 250	3
EDUC 210	2		
	<b>14</b>		<b>12</b>

#### Third Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Additional Elective	3	Additional Elective (if only taking 3 credit internship)	3
MGMT 302	3	COMM 483	3
PSYC 370	3	SOC 340	3
SOC 300	3	SOC 441	3
SOC 330	3	SOC 497	3
	<b>15</b>		<b>15</b>

#### Fourth Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Additional Elective	3	Additional Elective	3
COMM 311	3	Additional Elective	3
PSYC 360	3	HPER 210	1
SOC 422	3	PSYC 310	3
SOC 491	1	PSYC 470	3
	<b>13</b>		<b>13</b>

#### Total Credits 113

Please note: This plan is intended for general information only. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with their academic advisor each semester before registration.



## Learning Outcomes

1. **Knowledge of Society & the Field:** Students will develop an understanding of the interaction between individual and societal forces; why knowledge of social and historical context, norms, institutions, and inequalities are important to the field of human services; and their role as emerging professionals in the evolving human services field.
2. **Confidence in Assessment, Critical Evaluation, & Theory:** Human services students will apply theories, evaluate studies, and conduct research in course projects tailored to give practical experience that connects to a broad range of professional opportunities.
3. **Application of Knowledge, Skills, & Values in Applied Settings:** Students will complete internships and coursework that integrate their academic knowledge, skills and values as emerging professionals within real world, applied settings.