

# Bachelor of Science in Child and Family Services

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

100% ONLINE

**120**  
CREDIT HOURS

## Admission Requirements:

- Complete the online program application accompanied by a non-refundable processing fee.
- Submit official high school with a minimum 2.5 GPA and/or college transcripts with a minimum 2.0 GPA.
- Students are not required to submit ACT or SAT test scores.
- Apart from students living overseas on military bases, all applicants must reside in the United States to complete the required field experience hours.

## Cost:

- Per Credit: \$395
- Per Course: \$1,185
- Total Tuition: \$47,400
- Total Tuition + Fees: \$53,600



**Timeline: 3.5 Years**

## Job Outlook in Texas:

**32,120 Jobs**

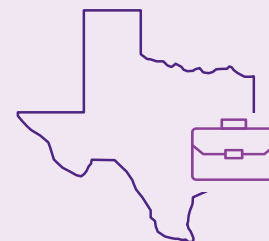
in 2025\*

**+3%**

Employment Growth (2024-2025)

**\$47,900** *per year*

Median Earnings



\*Filtered by the proportion of the national workforce in these occupations with a Bachelor's degree. Source Lightcast 2026.



## Major Requirements:

### **BIBM 413: Seminar in Adolescent Moral/Sexual Issues**

Provides a biblical framework for understanding the adolescent's sexual attitudes, values, and behaviors.

### **COMM 376: Family Communication**

An in-depth analysis of communication theory and research related to the family.

### **FAM 232: Family Finances**

Principles of finance and utilization of time and energy resources for the family. Includes spending plans, credit, savings, insurance, housing, taxes, investments, and estate planning.

### **FAM 251: Introduction to Family Studies**

The study of relationships, marriages and families as a social science. Examines interpersonal relationships and the dynamics of marriage and family life with an emphasis on the formation of healthy relationships and the maintenance of marital and family strengths.

### **FAM 262: Intimate Relationships and Marriage**

Introduction to the scientific study of intimate relationships, including theory, research methods, healthy and unhealthy relationship dynamics, and processes such as relationship formation, maintenance, and dissolution. Explores diversity in the context of intimate relationships. Discussions of biblical principles related to intimate relationships will take place throughout the course.

### **FAM 275 - Child Development Ages 0-11**

An introduction to the development, care, and guidance of the infant and young child (ages 0-11). A minimum of 6 hours of observation/interaction with children is required.

### **FAM 280: Child Development Ages 12-18**

An introduction to the development, care, and guidance of the adolescent child (ages 12-18). A minimum of 6 hours of observation/interaction with adolescents is required.

### **FAM 356: Human Intimacy**

Current social science research and literature pertaining to the dynamics of human intimacy and sexuality are examined from a biopsychosocial perspective. This course provides a conceptual framework and understanding of human sexuality necessary to address a multitude of sexual issues encountered when working with a highly diverse and secular audience.

### **FAM 362 - Families in Society**

Examines historical and current trends in marriage and family life relevant to contemporary American society. The course provides an eco-systemic view of marriage and family life and demonstrates how social policies and family laws as well as social service programs impact the ability of families to fulfill their social functions.

### **FAM 365: Research Methods in Child and Family Services**

Understanding and evaluating research in the social sciences with emphasis on human development, family studies, and Child Life. An introduction to statistical concepts, research design, measurement, sampling, quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection and analysis, data management, and presentation of research findings.

### **FAM 385: Family Theories: An Introduction**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to a variety of theoretical frameworks for understanding the internal dynamics of family systems. Students will explore how major concepts from various theories can be utilized to explain and predict human behavior in the context of interpersonal relationships and family life.

### **FAM 452: Parenting and Family Skills**

Principles of effective parenting including theoretical approaches to understanding parent/child relations, the etiology of child behaviors, dysfunctional parenting styles and mechanisms of behavior change. Emphasis is given to strengthening positive behaviors and developing significant perceptions and skills in children. Different family structures and interactions over the family life-span are considered.

### **FAM 453: Family Crises and Resiliency**

Consideration of social institutions and resources in the community as they affect the well-being of children and families. Attention is given to: (1) families experiencing stress and crises; (2) working with nontraditional family structures (e.g., single parent and stepfamilies) (3) community resources for meeting family needs; and (4) providing students with practical experiences and information needed to work effectively with community groups.

### **FAM 470: Family Life Education Methodology**

Provides students with an understanding of the competencies, broad knowledge base, and skills required for the ethical practice of family life education. Students acquire knowledge regarding the design, implementation and evaluation of family life education programs including methods of teaching/learning relevant to diverse audiences within a variety of community settings.

### **FAM 485: Ethics and Professional Development**

This course is designed to foster the personal and professional development of Family Studies majors via the integration of faith and learning, the process of ethical decision making, and the requisite professional skills required by careers in family life education and social services.



## **FAM 495: Practicum in Child and Family Services**

Supervised experience in a community-based family life education or service program. Students in the course will complete a minimum of 120 clock hours service-learning in the community program. This course is available for variable credit. Please see your advisor for more information. Prerequisite: Junior standing; instructor and department chair approval; and acceptance of the student by a community program. For majors only.

**OR**

## **FAMO 492 Virtual Practicum: Case Studies in Family Life Education**

In this applied practicum, students engage in virtual case studies drawn from real child and family services contexts. Students will explore essential components of case management through application of theory to realistic family situations. This option does not meet the requirements for the CFLE credential.

## **GERO 352: Adult Development and Aging**

Introduces the student to the study of adult development and aging, the emerging science of human aging, by taking a topical approach to each aspect of development including physical, cognitive, social, and personality in relation to periods of adult life span. Emphasis will be given to late adulthood.

## **Child Life Concentration Requirements:**

### **FAM 325: Child Life**

An introduction to the theory and practice of the Child Life profession. Students will gain a working knowledge of the following: scope of practice, impact of the healthcare experience in patients and families, therapeutic play, procedural preparation, family-centered care, and the Child Life Documents.

### **FAM 335: Therapeutic Play**

An exploration of the historical and contemporary realities of play, along with a focus on the importance of play in healthy growth and development, and the structuring of therapeutic play.

### **FAM 443: Death and Bereavement**

This course explores the experiences of death, dying and bereavement through a family systems perspective. Students will study the historical and cultural context of death, the experience of death along the life cycle stages, and the impact of death for families and involved individuals related to the death experience. A personal exploration of one's reactions to death, dying and bereavement will be integrated in the course, as well as an examination of death and dying from the points of view of dying persons, their families and friends, and family and service professionals.

### **BIOL 291: Anatomy and Physiology I**

A systems approach to human anatomy and physiology emphasizing the musculoskeletal, nervous, and endocrine systems.

### **BIOL 293: Anatomy and Physiology I Laboratory**

Laboratory study of topics covered in BIOL 291. For non-biology majors. Corequisite: BIOL 291. May be used to satisfy University Requirements. Course fee.

### **KINE 302: Medical Terminology**

This course is designed to acquaint the student with the language of the medical field, including word roots, prefixes and suffixes. The terminology will be specific to each system of the body. The course is presented in an electronic format using on-line technology.

### **BIBP 352: Biomedical Ethics**

Students will explore current bioethical issues in the health care field, evaluate each issue at the philosophical level, and learn to respond from a Christian worldview.

### **Electives:**

1 credit hour of elective will be required.

### **General Concentration Requirements:**

If a student chooses the General track, 21 hours of electives will be taken.

### **General Education/University Requirements**

56 hours of general education and university requirements are needed to fulfill this degree, including 9-15 hours of Bible courses. Specific courses will be determined based on a student's incoming transfer credits.

Please see the ACU Catalog for full program details.