

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

HDFS PATHWAY

FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SCIENCE MAJORS

CERTIFICATE OVERVIEW

The Community School Certificate is designed to recognize and develop students' understanding of the vital role schools play as hubs within communities. It is awarded to individuals who engage in collaborative, community-centered learning experiences that emphasize community-based partnership, and student-centered approaches to learning and community problem solving. Through this certificate program, students gain the skills to support holistic education, build meaningful relationships with families and stakeholders, and promote sustainable, community-driven development within educational settings.

How can a Community School Certificate enhance my undergraduate experience?

- 1. Hands on Experience:** Students will collaborate with school personnel and community school stakeholders to plan, analyze and disseminate information and goals based on each site's needs and asset assessment.
- 2. Develop Leadership and Advocacy Skills:** Students will build capacity to lead community-driven programs and initiatives while strengthening communication and coalition-building skills. Students can position themselves as a change agent within educational and social systems.
- 3. Engage with YOUR Passion:** Students will create and execute a research plan to investigate specific aspects or trends within emerging topics related to community schools and their preferred area of study.

How can a Community School Certificate connect to students' career goals post-graduation?

Students with a Community School Certificate will be well-positioned to become a:

1. Classroom Teacher
2. Community School Coordinator
3. School-based therapist (Master's degree is required)
4. Case Manager

Course Focus Area	Course(s)
Required major courses that can count towards the certificate:	
Course 1: (3 Credit Hours)	HDFS 211 - Development in Infancy and Childhood (3 credit hours), OR HDFS 213 - Development in Adolescence and Adulthood (3 credit hours) OR HDFS 210 (3 credit hours)
Course 2: (3 Credit Hours)	HDFS 320 - Family Interaction (3 credit hours)
Course 3: (3 Credit Hours)	HDFS 405 - Development of Professional Skills (3 credit hours)
Course 4: (3 Credit Hour minimum)	HDFS 480N - Practicum: Community Outreach OR HDFS 490 - Practicum: Research in Human Development and Family Science 3-12 Credit Hours <i>Placement is required to have a community school focus</i>
Additional courses for the certificate:	
Course 5: (3 Credit Hours)	<i>TPTE 495- Community Schools Fundamentals and Research Practicum Registration to course in tandem with community school practicum placement</i>