"I had valuable experience in and outside of the classroom. My professors taught me and prepared me to be a professional in my field. I have found and built the foundations for success. Upon graduation, the sky is the limit.”
—Courtney Wright ‘19

“The HDFS program is a place where I could completely immerse myself in what I want to do and, more importantly, be, for the rest of my life. The professors are not only genuinely approachable and helpful, but they encourage my need and want to practice empathy on a professional level. This program embodies qualities of generosity, helpfulness, integrity and a closely-knit community within the larger world of UVM.”
—Claire Crowley ‘19

“I was incredibly happy to be a student in CESS because it allowed me to create a path where I can utilize my skills and passion to help improve the quality of our society in different and meaningful ways.”
—Dominic Chatot ‘17

“The experience I gained being in the HDFS program had a major impact on my views and how I view others. One thing that will stay with me is the passion, encouragement and support I have experienced and received from UVM faculty and staff.”
—Maria Medina ‘18

“Working as a policy researcher and advocate on child and family issues, it is incredibly useful to have a way of thinking about issues like juvenile justice and education from a complex, multi-systemic lens. I often come back to my class notes when I am looking to understand or explain policy issues.”
—Camera Stokes Hudson ‘17

[go.uvm.edu/hdfs]
Human Development and Family Science (HDFS) at UVM

Human Development and Family Science Major, B.S.
Our HDFS program takes an interdisciplinary approach to teaching students how people grow and develop, form relationships and families, and interact with the broader sociocultural contexts. We provide service-learning opportunities and internships in the community, close relationships with faculty and fellow students, and a foundation for future careers or graduate study in a wide variety of human services and related fields.

Human Development and Family Science Minor
The HDFS minor (18 credits) is open to all UVM students interested in learning more about lifespan human development and interpersonal relationships within sociocultural contexts.

Student-Centered Approach
We pride ourselves in providing personalized support for our students as they navigate college life and explore opportunities for personal and professional development.

Interdisciplinary Coursework
As an HDFS student, you will learn about human development from multiple disciplinary perspectives, thus learning about the interplay of biology, relationships, and sociocultural contexts throughout the lifespan. In some courses, we focus our attention on the study of individual development, while in others we explore the contexts in which individuals develop, such as personal relationships, families and communities, and societal institutions.

In addition to core courses in HDFS, you will study the behavioral and social sciences, the humanities, physical and biological sciences, and multi-cultural education. Many of our students also take on a minor area of study, such as Biology; Psychological Sciences; American Sign Language; Special Education; Coaching; or Gender, Sexuality, & Women's Studies.

Service Learning
Our students get into the field early in their college career, participating in valuable service learning experiences with our community partners. Field experience is a signature aspect of being a student in the College of Education and Social Services (CESS).

Professional Internships
By senior year, you will be well prepared to engage in an internship in one of a variety of public and private agencies, such as family centers, domestic violence shelters, centers for abused and neglected children, youth programs, legislative offices, programs for elders, community mental health programs, and public and private schools.

Exciting Research and Study Abroad Opportunities
You can also explore various research and study abroad opportunities. The possibilities are endless, and our faculty are here to provide their expertise and guidance as you pursue your interests and ambitions.

After Graduation
Our graduates are ready to pursue a variety of professional experiences after graduation. Many of alumni pursue graduate studies and careers in counseling, social work, public health, education, and nursing, to name a few. Regardless of their professional path, alumni report back to us that their HDFS major prepared them very well for the work of supporting human development among diverse individuals and across a variety of developmental and social contexts.