

What Can I Do With a Major In...

Health & Human Development - Family & Consumer Sciences

Family & Consumer Science programs^{1&2} aim to orient students to family and consumer sciences as a whole. Individuals will learn how individuals develop and function in family, work, and community settings and how they relate to their physical, social, emotional, and intellectual environments. This includes such subjects as living patterns, health, lifestyle, and relationships.

Students who are successful in this major are interested in:

- Consumer and financial decisions
- Empowering individuals, families and communities through education
- Family law and public policy
- Family systems/dynamics
- Food and nutrition
- Helping individuals and families maximize their overall well-being using research based knowledge
- Holistic well-being
- Human development across the lifespan
- Investigating ongoing issues in managing both work and family
- Parenting
- The integrative nature of related disciplines (nutrition, finance, consumer decisions, near environments, human development, families and community development)
- Understanding individuals in the context of their family, communities, culture, and social class.

The program at Montana State University² is comprised of two options: teaching option and non-teaching option. The **teaching option:** Students taking this option are able to apply for a Montana teaching license in Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) grades 5 – 12. The curriculum is carefully designed to not only be in compliance with Montana licensure laws but also with all national standards in Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher Education. With a teaching license in hand, graduates teach a variety of FCS courses at middle schools and high schools. Some common course titles include: Culinary Essentials, Family Economics and Financial Planning, Single Survival, Occupational Child Care, ProStart (a program from the National Restaurant Association) and others. Many teachers become advisors to Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) chapters. In addition to their teaching license, upon completion of their degree students will be qualified to sit for the Certified in Family and Consumer Sciences national exam and the Accredited Financial Counselor exams. In both cases, Montana State University has a very high passage rate. Students in the teaching option will have taken all necessary course work to become a Certified Family Life Educator through the National Council on Family Relations.

The demand for Family and Consumer Sciences teachers is very high in both Montana and the nation. Most Family and Consumer Sciences teaching option graduates work as teachers in either middle schools or high schools but several go on to do related careers. Some recent examples of related careers that students have chosen include: Family and Consumer Sciences State Specialist for Office of Public Instruction, Family Economics and Financial Education Curriculum Development and School Counselors. In no way does having a teaching degree limit students career possibilities – it just one credential of many they have earned that they can use to secure employment.

The Non-Teaching Option: The family and consumer sciences nonteaching option emphasizes the family as a dynamic social unit and examines diverse families in contemporary society. The program focuses on family behavior, strengths, and challenges using family-specific theoretical frameworks (family systems, family crisis) and research methods. Social, cultural, historical, political, and economic trends that influence family functioning and well-being are addressed. Students study a wide range of family issues including development across the lifespan, changing family structures, intergenerational relations. Additionally, human response to stress and crisis, family policies and laws, family finance and economics, work and family issues, and human service delivery and decision-making are included. The family and consumer sciences nonteaching option provides a strong background for students seeking careers in human services, family life education, family policy, and financial counseling. However, graduate training will be necessary for students wishing to enter the counseling and therapy fields. The curriculum prepares students to work in a wide range of organizations and settings, state or federal agencies, nonprofit settings, and for admission to graduate programs in family science, family resource management, human development, social work, law, and other related behavioral and social science disciplines. Also, graduates of the program may be involved in family-owned business and work in occupations requiring knowledge of family finance including financial counseling.

Related occupations include¹:

- Home Economist
- Adults with Disabilities Manager
- Secondary Career and Technical Educator
- Farm/Home Management Advisor
- Social Worker
- Secondary Education Teacher
- College/University Faculty
- Extension Agent
- Estate & Trustee Planner
- Accredited Financial Counselor
- Bank Membership Director
- Marketing Director

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MSU graduates (Bachelor's degree) were hired in the following selected fields³:

Family and Child Programming:

Assistant Director – Building Blocks Academy
 Assisted Living Supervisor – Highgate Senior Living (Memory Cottage)
 Certified Child Life Specialist – Christus Santa Rosa Children's Hospital
 Community Alcohol Coordinator – Montana State University
 Disabilities Manager – Head Start
 Education Manager – Head Start, Blackfeet Early Childhood Center
 Health and Nutrition Manager – Rocky Boy Head Start
 Hospice Volunteer Manager – Rocky Mountain Hospice
 Infant/Toddler Program Director – Children's Place
 Instructional Aide – Summitview Child and Family Services
 Lead Teacher/Supervisor – Head Start, Blackfeet Tribal Head Start
 Preschool Teacher – Blackfeet Early Childhood Center
 Prevention Director for Domestic and Sexual Violence- Center for Women in Transition; Tri County Network against Domestic and Sexual Violence
 Primary Caregiver – Adelphi Children's Enrichment Center
 Rehabilitation Program Assistant – Deaconess Billings Clinic
 Research Associate – Montana State University
 Resident Director – Montana State University
 Site Supervisor – Head Start, Blackfeet Early Childhood Center
 Social Worker – Lutheran Social Services
 Student Affairs (Study Abroad) Advisor – Montana State University
 Supported Living Instructor – Reach, Inc.
 Treatment Service Technician – AWARE
 Work Service specialist – Reach, Inc.

Family and Consumer Sciences Teaching:

Teacher - Park High School; Shepherd High School; Helena Middle School; Butte High School; Ekalaka High School, Fergus Junior High; Great Falls Junior High, St. Mary's Parochial School; Columbus High School; Boulder High School; Bellingham High School; Creston School District; Evergreen Academy; Trinity Christian School; High School District #9, Park City School District #5

Family and Consumer Sciences State Specialist - MT Office of Public Instruction

Financial Counseling and Planning Education:

Conference Coordinator - Big Sky Resorts
 Guest Services Representative – Headroom Corporation
 Insurance Agent/ Claims Processor - Allstate
 Investment Broker Assistant- Smith Barney

Licensed Salesperson – Allstate Insurance
 Loan Servicing Correspondence Specialist – Washington Mutual
 New Accounts Representative – Big Sky Western Bank
 Office Manager – Fay Ranches
 Program Manager/Financial Counselor – Students Advocates for Financial Education

Real Estate Appraiser and Realtor – PEDE & Associates

Government/Non-Governmental or Non-Profit Agencies:

Apartment Case Manager – North County Transitional Living Services, Inc.
 Case Worker – Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch, Youth Dynamics
 Deputy Clerk of District Court – Clerk of Court Gallatin County
 Eligibility Examiner – Office of Public Assistance
 Juvenile Probation Officer- Dallam, Hartley, Sherman Counties
 Patient Financial Advocate – Bozeman Deaconess Hospital
 Relocation Clerk – Tacoma Housing Authority
 Volunteer: AmeriCorps NCCC Member; Peace Corps

Other:

Administrative Assistant – Stevenson-Michael-Olson Funeral Home
 Customer Service Agent – Home Depot
 Courier - FedEx Corporation
 Design Consultant – HW Home Interior
 Document Specialist and Office Manager – CH2M Hill Trigon, Inc.
 Guest Services Representative – Best Western GranTree Inn
 Inside Sales Representative – 3M
 Owner and Operating Manager – Helly Hansen
 Program Coordinator – University of Arizona ; Bellevue Chamber of Commerce
 Public Relations Advocate – MASH
 Regional Product Manager – Belneve Productions
 Sales Associate – Pier 1 Imports
 Sales Manager - Dillards
 Service Coordinator – Tripod Data Systems
 Small Business Owners - Ceramica Specialty Tiles, Shoefly Shoes, Rockford Coffee
 Staffing Consultant – Express Personnel Services
 Subject Recruiter – BioScience Laboratories

Salary averages of survey respondents: (# of respondents in parentheses)³

2007: MT: \$ 25688 (15) Out of State: \$ 24834 (7)

2006: MT: \$ 25,963 (13) Out of State: \$ 32,567 (6)

2005: MT: \$ 23,335 (11) Out of State: \$ 29,960 (3)

2004: MT: \$ 21,701 (15) Out of State: \$ 24,453 (3)

Graduates from this program entered programs of further education at these institutions:

Eastern Washington University	Montana State University	University of Arizona	Leslie College
University of Denver	University of Utah	University of Texas - Austin	Seattle University
Washington State University	University of Montana	Portland State University	Walla Walla College

Other Sources of Information:

American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences: www.aafcs.org	American Dietetic Association: www.eatright.org
American Council on Consumer Interests: www.consumerinterests.org	National Education Association: www.nea.org
Association of Career and Technical Educators: www.acteonline.org	National Council on Family Relations: www.ncfr.org
Association of Financial Planning and Counseling Education: www.afcpe.org	
Department of Health & Human Development: www.montana.edu/wwwhhd	

For more information contact:



Montana State University
 177 Strand Union Building
 Bozeman, MT 59717
 (406) 994-4353
www.montana.edu/careers

¹University of Oregon. 2007. Created by intoCareers, a unit of the University of Oregon. Montana information Montana Career Information System. Discover: 2008 by ACT, Inc.

²Montana State University Department of Family and Consumer Science

³Montana State University Career & Internship Services

Number of graduates/number of respondents: 2004: 52/37; 2005: 35/22; 2006:49/30; 2007: 50/33