

CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES

What can I do with this degree?

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

PRE-SCHOOL/DAYCARE

Teaching
Administration

Religious organizations
Montessori schools
Private, public, franchise, and corporate day care centers
Private homes
Family day care
Extended school programs
Preschools
Head Start programs

Develop physical stamina for working with children.
Acquire appropriate certification or licensure for day care and public school teaching.
Obtain experience working with children through volunteering or part-time jobs.
Demonstrate patience with children and the ability to work well with people of various backgrounds.
Develop strong communications skills to deal effectively with parents.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Administration
Development
Programming
Research
Evaluation

Community centers
YMCA or YWCA
Consumer protection agencies
Summer camp programs
Adult day care providers
Hospitals
Rehabilitation organizations
Religious organizations
Adoption agencies

Seek related work experience, particularly summer camps or special needs areas.
Learn to work well with all types of people through volunteer or paid positions.
Obtain Child Life Certification for some areas.
Develop strong presentation and public speaking skills.
Be willing to wear multiple hats within an organization.
Learn how to write grants.
Develop research and writing skills.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Case Management
Counseling
Administration

Profit and nonprofit organizations focused on children, youth, families, or senior citizens
Adult and child day care providers
Group homes
Half-way houses
Youth services agencies
Senior citizens' programs
Foundations and funding organizations

Supplement curriculum with courses in social work, sociology, or psychology.
Obtain a master's degree and appropriate licensure in mental health counseling, social work, or rehabilitation counseling to provide therapy.
Earn a graduate degree to obtain most administrative positions.
Gain experience through volunteer positions or internships.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

EDUCATION

Teaching Early Childhood Education Early Childhood Special Education Home Economics Family and Consumer Sciences Curriculum Development Research Counseling Administration College Student Affairs Parent-Child Education	Public and private schools (K-12) Public preschool programs (e.g., Head Start) Private preschool programs Montessori schools Adult education programs Colleges and universities Programs servicing children and adults with special needs	Acquire appropriate certification for public school teaching. Obtain Ph.D. for college and university teaching and research opportunities. Acquire certification for day care and parent-child education. Obtain graduate degree for counseling, student affairs, and administrative positions. Find part-time or summer jobs working with children. Serve as a tutor, peer mentor, resident assistant or student advisor.
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MEDICAL

Child Care Programs Education	Hospitals Healthcare facilities Health and wellness agencies Hospices	Earn a master's degree in Social Work, Counseling, or related areas for the most opportunities. Obtain experience in advocacy. Acquire licensing or certification for some areas. Volunteer in a healthcare setting.
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BUSINESS

Management Sales Customer Service	Manufacturing companies of children's clothes, toys, furniture, and food Department and retail stores Service organizations	Minor in business; develop skills in areas such as management, marketing or sales. Secure leadership positions on campus. Get related experience through internships or part-time jobs. Build computer skills in word processing, database management, and spreadsheet programs.
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COMMUNICATIONS

Journalism Public Relations Writing Editing Research	Organizations geared toward children and family including: Book publishers Professional associations Radio and TV stations Nonprofit organizations Manufacturers Newspapers Magazines	Minor or double major in a communications field. Develop excellent communication skills, both written and verbal. Submit articles or books for publication. Work for campus publications or radio stations. Complete internships with related organizations.
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AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

GOVERNMENT

Social Services
Rehabilitation
Program Coordination
Research
Program Evaluation
Legislation
Advocacy

Federal, state and local government agencies (i.e.,
Departments of Health, Education and
Welfare, Criminal Justice Departments,
Sanitation, Fire/Safety, Nutrition, and Cooperative
Extension)
Vocational rehabilitation
Mental health agencies
Military child care programs
Overseas child care and education programs
Health and wellness agencies
Women's protective agencies

Take additional courses in area of interest.
Develop strong presentation and public speaking
skills.
Obtain specialized training for opportunities in
protective services or law enforcement.
Complete an internship with a government
organization.
Learn federal, state, and local job application
procedures.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Bachelor's degree is sufficient for entry-level positions.
- Advanced degrees are essential for clinical and therapeutic counseling positions.
- Master's degree or Ph.D. is often needed for administrative and supervisory positions.
- Ph.D. is required for college teaching and advanced research positions.
- Additional or specialized training qualifies one for higher paying and positions of greater responsibility.
- Obtain part-time, summer, internship, or volunteer experience in child care, schools, hospitals, camps, or overseas programs or in advocacy or service-oriented programs dealing with alcoholism, drug abuse, family violence, aging, poor, or disabled populations.
- Obtain certification in CPR, safety, and first aid for adults, children, and infants.
- Develop interest and gain experience in computers, arts, crafts, music, or physical activity.
- Obtain certification for specialized areas including Child Life Specialist or Child Advocacy.

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CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES

Child and Family Studies Links:

[American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences](#)

[National Child Care Information Center](#)

[American Counseling Association](#)

[National Board for Certified Counselors](#)

[National Council on Family Relations](#)

[American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy](#)

[Social Work and Social Services Jobs Online](#)

[Child Life Council](#)

[Childcare Workers from the Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)

[Counselors from the Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)

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PRE-SCHOOL/DAY CARE

Teaching
Administration

EMPLOYERS

Religious organizations
Montessori schools
Private, public, franchise, and corporate day care centers
Private homes
Family day care
Extended school programs
Preschools
Head Start programs

STRATEGIES

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Demonstrate patience with children and the ability to work well with people of various backgrounds. Develop strong communications skills to deal effectively with parents.

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COMMUNITY SERVICES

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Programming

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Summer camp programs
Adult day care providers
Hospitals
Rehabilitation organizations
Religious organizations
Adoption agencies

STRATEGIES

Seek related work experience; particularly summer camps or special needs areas. Learn to work well with all types of people through volunteer or paid positions. Obtain Child Life Certification for some areas. Develop strong presentation and public speaking skills. Be willing to wear multiple hats within an organization. Learn how to write grants. Develop research and writing skills.

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SOCIAL SERVICES

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Foundations and funding organizations

STRATEGIES

Supplement curriculum with courses in social work, sociology, or psychology. Obtain a master's degree and appropriate licensure in mental health counseling, social work, or rehabilitation counseling to provide therapy. Earn a graduate degree to obtain most administrative positions. Gain experience through volunteer positions or internships.

AREAS

EDUCATION

Teaching
Early Childhood Education
Early Childhood Special Education
Home Economics
Family and Consumer Sciences
Curriculum Development
Research
Counseling

Administration
College Student Affairs
Parent-Child Education

EMPLOYERS

Public and private schools (K-12)
Public preschool programs (e.g., Head Start)
Private preschool programs
Montessori schools
Adult education programs
Colleges and universities
Programs servicing children and adults with special needs

STRATEGIES

Acquire appropriate certification for public school teaching. Obtain Ph.D. for college and university teaching and research opportunities. Acquire certification for day care and parent-child education. Obtain graduate degree for counseling, student affairs, and administrative positions. Find part-time or summer jobs working with children. Serve as a tutor, peer mentor, resident assistant or student advisor.

AREAS

MEDICAL

Child Care Programs
Education

EMPLOYERS

Hospitals
Healthcare facilities
Health and wellness agencies
Hospices

STRATEGIES

Earn a master's degree in Social Work, Counseling, or related areas for the most opportunities. Obtain experience in advocacy. Acquire licensing or certification for some areas. Volunteer in a healthcare setting.

AREAS

BUSINESS

Management
Sales
Customer Service

EMPLOYERS

Manufacturing companies of children's clothes, toys, furniture, and food Department and retail stores Service organizations

STRATEGIES

Minor in business; develop skills in areas such as management, marketing or sales. Secure leadership positions on campus. Get related experience through internships or part-time jobs. Build computer skills in word processing, database management, and spreadsheet programs.

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COMMUNICATIONS

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Public Relations
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Research

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GOVERNMENT

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Rehabilitation
Program Coordination
Research
Program Evaluation
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Advocacy

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Vocational rehabilitation
Mental health agencies
Military child care programs
Overseas child care and education programs
Health and wellness agencies
Women's protective agencies

STRATEGIES

Take additional courses in area of interest. Develop strong presentation and public speaking skills. Obtain specialized training for opportunities in protective services or law enforcement. Complete an internship with a government organization. Learn federal, state, and local job application procedures.

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Bachelor's degree is sufficient for entry-level positions.

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Prepared by the Career Planning staff of Career Services at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. (2005) UTK is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA /ADEA/Employer