

HDFS 595 Internship FAQs

- ***Are there any prerequisite courses for the HDFS internship?***
Yes. Students must take HDFS 101, HDFS 500, and HDFS 573 before they can enroll in the internship course.
- ***How many hours are required for the internship?***
Students are required to log 300 hours related to the internship experience. 150 of the 300 hours must be direct service hours in work related to at least one of the ten family life education content areas with children and/or families in the internship setting.
- ***Are paid internships allowed?***
The HDFS internship is not a paid experience. Any work that a student gets paid for will not count towards the required internship hours. Organizations and agencies may pay students but only work that is unpaid work can count towards the required internship hours.
- ***Can students take more than 12 hours in coursework when enrolled in the internship course?***
Students are encouraged to take only 12 hours when enrolled in the internship course. The internship is 6 hours of community-based work and students must be able to successfully balance the internship course requirements with their other coursework.
- ***Where can students do their internships?***
Students can do their internships at agencies/organizations that serve children or families. The agency/organization must provide services to children or families in at least one of the ten Family Life Education content areas. The following disciplines are not acceptable areas for the HDFS internship: speech and language pathology, audiology, counseling, or teacher education settings. Child Life Specialist internships require additional coursework not offered by the Winthrop HDFS program and have separate requirements determined by hospitals. Please check with the instructor of the HDFS internship course if you have questions about the suitability of an internship site.
- ***What are the requirements for internship site supervisors?***
Internship site supervisors should have at least a bachelor's degree in a human sciences related field (e.g., human development, family science, sociology, social work, psychology, etc.). Exceptions to the degree requirement can be made in some circumstances. Please check with the instructor of the HDFS internship course for relevant exceptions. Internship site supervisors should be available for a site visit from the instructor of the internship course and to provide interns with at least 30 minutes each week of face-to-face feedback.
- ***What is the family life education project?***
The family life education project allows students to develop and implement a preventative education activity with children or families in the internship setting. Guidelines for the project are included in the HDFS internship documents posted on the Winthrop HDFS website. The student is to work with the instructor and internship site supervisor to develop the project. The project stays with the agency/organization after the internship is over.