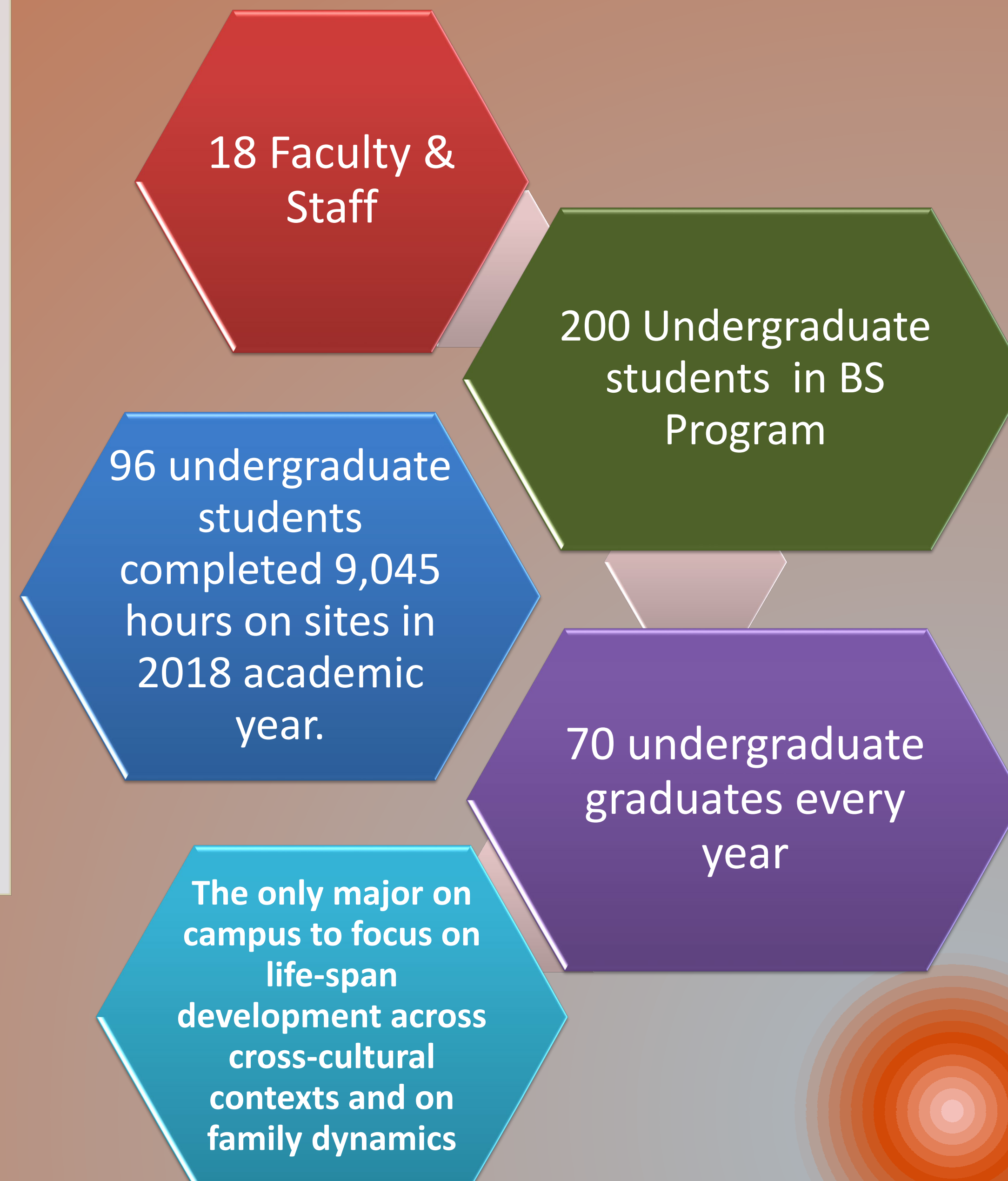# Development of Young Scholars and their Career-Preparedness: HDFS Assessment Report

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Introduction

The Department of Human Development and Family Science's assessments are geared toward ensuring the high quality of our students' education while also meeting the program's commitment to the Middle States Higher Education Commission. Our assessment efforts include identifying and systematically evaluating student learning outcomes through curriculum mapping, course-embedded assignments, capstone experiences, and exit surveys. Assessment results inform evidence-based decision-making and practices to advance student scholarship, career preparedness, and curriculum development. Our direct and indirect assessment efforts indicate that we are successfully meeting requirements for and improving student learning outcomes. HDFS is committed to making learning outcomes assessment an ongoing and critical part of students' success.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

SLO1	Students will be able to explain principles of human development in families from diverse populations.
SLO2	Students will be able to analyze how research is utilized to understand human development and family processes across settings.
SLO3	Students will be able to evaluate practices across settings.
SLO4	Students will be able demonstrate competence in working ethically with persons across life span in diverse settings.

- 18 Faculty & Staff
- 200 Undergraduate students in BS Program
- 96 undergraduate students completed 9,045 hours on sites in 2018 academic year.
- 70 undergraduate graduates every year
- The only major on campus to focus on life-span development across cross-cultural contexts and on family dynamics

Assessment Methods

- Multiple direct measures: Actual student works, field projects, research papers, presentations, practicum performance, and capstone projects
- Multiple indirect measures: Course grades, student evaluations, student interviews, and exit surveys when determining the degree of student learning that has taken place

Successful Strategies

Assessment strategies strongly complement departmental efforts to actively support expected student learning outcomes through:

- Utilization of sustainable multiple direct course-embedded assessments (e.g., projects, research papers, presentations) to assesses student learning
- Inclusion of capstone courses that brings together theoretical and research learning from the undergraduate experience to produce practical community-based projects that incorporate multiple learning goals Use of direct measures that are program-specific learning goals
- Continuously monitoring shortcomings in student learning as students move through the program
- Utilization of assessment data to make meaningful evidence-based decisions for curriculum planning and revisions

Exit Surveys

- Every year, all HDFS seniors complete a 32-item Program Exit- Survey (close-ended and open-ended questions) prior to graduation
- Exit survey questions are matched to programmatic student learning outcomes
- Students assess the quality of the overall HDFS undergraduate program, their academic, applied, and internship experiences, and academic learning
- Analyses of data from exit surveys (concurrent and over time) provide department faculty with information regarding the strengths and limitations of the curriculum and insight into ways to improve student training and academic experiences.
- Programmatic and course-based changes are made when consistent patterns emerge regarding the need for improvement in student training or experience

Implications

Use of Results/Next Steps

Departmental faculty use the results from the assessment to:

- Identify areas of strength and weakness with respect to promoting student learning outcomes
- Restructure curriculum, course materials, assignments, and projects to enhance student learning outcomes
- Reflect on the usefulness of the direct and indirect measures for evaluating students skills and knowledge related to learning outcomes and modify as needed
- Evaluate progress in aligning curriculum with learning outcomes by tracking student cohorts over time
- Engage in regular discussions to refine both our assessment criteria and our goals for student learning
- Develop a pre-internship course to better prepare students for the community internships, and to cultivate students' scholarship and career preparedness

Our assessment results indicate that we are successful in meeting requirements for, and improving, student learning outcomes.

We will continue to make learning outcomes assessment an ongoing and critical departmental process to promote students success in the classroom and community.

Curriculum Map/Student Project Evaluation Rubric

* = introduced ** = practiced *** = reinforced	CFS 201	CFS 202	CFS 204	CFS 363	CFS 367	CFS 432	CFS 433	CFS 493	CFS 494
1. Students will explain principles of human development in families from diverse populations.	* Written assignments on family project *Final grade	*Performance on exams *Written assignments on child and youth development		** Performance on Final exam ** Written paper assignment	** Final Paper ** Response Project	*** 4 Activity Plans *** Head Teaching Day			
2. Students will analyze how research is utilized to understand human development and family processes across settings.	* Written assignments on family project * Final grade	* Performance on exams * Written assignments on child and youth development	** Final grade ** Research Project	*** Performance on Final exam *** Written paper assignment					
3. Students will critically evaluate practices across settings.					* Final Paper * Response Project	**Focused observation assignment on child/adolescent in the practicum settings	*** Reflection project on student's practicum experience	*** Final Project on Youth & Family, and Human Services	
4. Students will demonstrate competence in working ethically with persons across life span in diverse settings.					* Final Paper * Response Project	** Portfolio Assessment Project *** Midterm Project	*** Practicum Evaluation on performance throughout the practicum experience	*** Practicum Evaluation on performance throughout the practicum experience	*** Practicum Evaluation on performance throughout the practicum experience