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 to demonstrate competence in working ethically with persons across life span in diverse settings.

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

Curriculum Map/Student Project Evaluation Rubric

- **SLO1** Students will be able to explain principles of human development in families from diverse populations.
  - **Introduction to Principles of Human Development to Students from Diverse Populations**: Assignments on family process and development
  - **Fieldwork Experience**: Assignments on child and family development
  - **Final Project**: Performance on Final Project Assignment

- **SLO2** Students will be able to analyze how research is utilized to understand human development and family processes across settings.
  - **Introduction to Principles of Human Development to Students from Diverse Populations**: Assignments on family process and development
  - **Fieldwork Experience**: Assignments on child and family development
  - **Final Project**: Performance on Final Project Assignment

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.**

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.