



## DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & FAMILY SCIENCE

### MISSION STATEMENT

*(Revised May 17, 2006)*

The Department of Human Development and Family Science at Messiah College seeks to enhance the well-being of families in diverse societies through a) educating and advising students for graduate school and careers in family science; b) engaging in national and international conversations on family-related issues; c) conducting academic research; d) developing and delivering effective family life education programs; e) presenting ideas and solutions which reflect Christian faith and values; and f) pursuing lives of leadership, service (e.g. civic engagement), and reconciliation (e.g. ethical responsibility) locally, nationally, and globally.

### DEPARTMENT GOALS

*(Updated September 6, 2005)*

Students completing one of the majors in the Human Development and Family Science Department at Messiah College will be able to:

1. Critique social research particularly as it relates to families.
2. Explore personal attitudes and values and understand the attitudes and values of others.
3. Gain knowledge of concepts and principles in the field of human development and family science.
4. Develop interpersonal skills which contribute to family well-being.
5. Read and think critically.
6. Write effectively.
7. Speak clearly.
8. Competently conduct social research.
9. Obtain knowledge in key content areas of family science including human development throughout the life span, human sexuality, interpersonal relations, family interaction, couple formation, parenting, professional and personal ethics, family and society, family policy, family processes (i.e., communication, decision making), family theory, and family services and intervention strategies.
10. Integrate their Christian faith and academic understanding of human development and family science.
11. Experience working with families in human service agencies or related organizations.
12. Increase understanding of multicultural and diverse family experiences (e.g., socioeconomic, rural-urban, various family structures)