

Messiah overview

Messiah College is a nationally ranked private Christian college with a socially, denominationally and politically diverse student body of approximately 2,800 undergraduate students from more than 35 states, 29 countries and a variety of Christian faith traditions.

Academic majors

Messiah awards degrees in more than 55 undergraduate majors, offers six pre-professional programs and has a growing number of graduate programs.

Setting

Our scenic 471-acre campus is located in suburban Grantham, Pa., just 12 miles from the state capital of Harrisburg.

Faculty

Messiah selects its educators for their Christian commitment as well as their proven teaching ability. They are outstanding scholars, authors and experts in their chosen fields. Seventy-six percent hold terminal degrees. Our low student/faculty ratio of 13:1 ensures students receive personalized attention.

Community engagement

Our nationally recognized service learning initiatives extend the classroom into the real world. We teach students to engage their Christian faith, to build community, to serve as agents for peace and reconciliation and to champion the rights of the poor and the dispossessed.

Study abroad

Nationally ranked for our study abroad program, Messiah strives to make international programs accessible to all its students. Last year, more than 400 students earned academic credit in more than 40 different countries.

Campus life

Eighty-eight percent of students live on campus in traditional halls, apartments and special-interest housing. More than 60 clubs and organizations offer countless opportunities for students to get involved.

Spiritual formation

Messiah weaves opportunities for spiritual growth throughout students' college experience, including chapel and worship services, discipleship groups, ministry outreach teams, community service, mission trips and a variety of other special programs.

A spirit of inquiry, gracious hospitality and Christian conviction allows students to examine and deepen their faith.

Internships

Our nationally recognized internship program helps students land internships locally, nationally or internationally in a variety of fields and often creates exciting post-graduation career opportunities.

Athletics

Characterized by outstanding facilities, competitive scheduling and a team culture rooted in a deeply Christian ethic, Messiah's 22 intercollegiate NCAA Division III athletic teams exemplify excellence, competing strongly at the conference level and frequently in national championships. Since 2000, the Messiah Falcons have earned 12 national team championships.



Human Development and Family Science

Foster powerful, positive connections.

Explore relationships and the development of individuals within the framework of family and society. Unravel the many complexities that life cycle changes have on individuals, relationships and families. With highly skilled scholars as your mentors, learn the theories and gain the practical experience that will enable you to become an instrument for positive change. The very young, the very old and everyone in between will benefit when you employ your gifts to heal rifts and *build strong families*.

Human development and family science

The Bachelor of Arts program in human development and family science (HDFS) focuses on developing the individual in the context of the family and society. Students investigate how people interact and how life cycles influence behavior and group dynamics. Students are offered a wide variety of opportunities for hands-on experience, research, study abroad and focused coursework in areas of specific interest.

Highlights of the human development and family science major at Messiah

- Many universities offer HDFS as a major, but few Christian colleges do. Messiah is uniquely situated to prepare Christian professionals to help build strong families.
- HDFS majors take a series of core courses that focus on understanding the complex issues related to relationships and families, preparing students for graduate school or careers with individuals and families across the life cycle.
- Messiah's HDFS program is the second academic program in the nation to be affirmed by the National Council on Family Relations' (NCFR) Academic Program Review Committee for Certified Family Life Education. Graduates are eligible to receive the provisional Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) designation from NCFR.
- The major affords flexibility to study abroad, engage in internships and pursue minors.

Minors and associated concentrations

Minors

- children and youth services
- gender studies
- gerontology
- multicultural families
- pre-marriage and family therapy
- human development and family science

Facilities and resources overview

- Through a special agreement, Messiah's on-campus Early Learning Center provides a professional setting for students to discreetly observe the interactions of enrolled children.
- Many students join the Messiah College Council on Family Relations (MCCFR) – a student professional organization affiliated with the NCFR.

Department faculty highlights

- Faculty members' scholarly work has been published in books, peer-reviewed professional journals and other publications.
- Faculty research interests span from infant development and care to families in later life.
- Faculty members regularly present papers, often with students, at professional conferences.
- Eighty percent of department faculty members have terminal degrees in their fields. All full-time faculty members are dedicated Christian scholars.

Careers for human development and family science majors

- Graduates possess knowledge and skills desired by employers in a wide range of career settings, including community-based social services, family intervention, faith-based organizations, education, early childhood education and international contexts.
- Employment options are vast and include child life specialists, case managers, foster care or adoption workers, youth service workers, early intervention specialists, professionals working with older adults and counselors.

Internships and graduate degrees

- The majority of students pursue internships as service providers, counselors and program assistants at a variety of family and social service organizations.
- Many students pursue advanced degrees in counseling, marriage and family therapy, education, social work, ministry, gerontology and family science.

“My Dynamics of Family Interaction course gave me a great understanding of how each of my clients is affected by his or her family system. Especially when working with foster kids, it is essential to understand disruption of the family system and strained relationships.”

—Messiah alumna