

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 37 states, 28 countries and a variety of Christian faith traditions.

Academic majors

Messiah awards degrees in more than 80 undergraduate majors, offers six pre-professional programs and has a growing number of graduate programs.

Setting

Our scenic 471-acre campus is located in Mechanicsburg, 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, artists and experts in their chosen fields. Eighty-four 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, promote justice for the oppressed, reconcile adversaries and care for the earth.

Study abroad

Nationally ranked for our study abroad program, Messiah strives to make international programs accessible to all its students.

Campus life

Eighty-seven percent of students live on campus in traditional halls, apartments and special-interest housing. More than 70 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 16 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 *build strong families*.



Human development and family science

The Bachelor of Arts program in human development and family science (HDFS) focuses on the study of relationships, human development and families.

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 was 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, pursue minors or graduate early.
- HDFS is also offered as a minor.

Facilities and resources overview

- All students learn how to observe children in the NAEYC-accredited Early Learning Center on campus.
- The Messiah College Council on Family Relations (MCCFR)—a student professional organization affiliated with the NCFR—affords leadership, service and professional development opportunities.
- HDFS majors frequently join department faculty at conferences, including the National Conference on Family Relations, where students glean helpful resources and knowledge for their future careers.

Department faculty highlights

- Faculty members specialize in areas ranging from infant development and care to families in later life, intergenerational relationships, Latino families and marriage and family therapy.
- Faculty members regularly present papers, often with students, at professional conferences.
- Faculty members include students in planning and delivering family life education programs.
- 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

- Students pursue internships as service providers, counselors and program assistants at a variety of family and social service organizations.
- Service-learning is integrated into many classes, providing students with opportunities to interact with various populations of people and agencies/potential job sites.
- Many students pursue advanced degrees in counseling, marriage and family therapy, education, social work, ministry, gerontology and family science.

“Dynamics of Family Interaction gave me a great understanding of my clients are affected by their family systems. Especially when working with foster kids, it is essential to understand disruption of the family system and strained relationships.”

—Messiah alumna