TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction 3
  Philosophy 3
  Student Objectives 4

Degree Options 5

Suggested Plans of Study
  Human Development and Family Science 6
  Child Life 8
  Apparel Merchandizing & Design 9
  Interior Design 10
  Dietetic Internship 12
  Food, Nutrition & Dietetics 13
  Social Aspects of Aging 14
  Family & Consumer Science Education 15

General Requirements 16
  Admission 16
  Degree Audit 17
  Residence Requirement 18
  Diversity Tuition Waiver 18
  Time Limit 18
  Transfer of Credit 19
  Grading System 19
  Academic Load 19
  Withdrawal 19
  Refunds 20
  Graduation Information 20

Graduate Assistantships 20

Independent Study 21

Thesis 22
  Registration for Thesis Credit 22
  Responsibilities of the Thesis Advisor 22
  Thesis Advisory Committee 23
  Procedures and Responsibilities for Students 24

Student-Faculty Research Collaboration 25

Frequently Asked Questions 26
INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES
GRADUATE PROGRAM

All students in the Family and Consumer Sciences Graduate Program will, upon completion of the department and university requirements, receive a Master of Family and Consumer Sciences degree. The Family and Consumer Sciences Department offers two types of Master degrees: Master of Arts and Master of Science.

The Family and Consumer Sciences Graduate Program, in order to accommodate the needs of students and the constantly-changing developments in the field, must retain flexibility of curricular structure. At the same time, it is essential that all master's degree candidates pursue plans of study which meet criteria of quality control and credibility. It is expected that all graduate students in family and consumer sciences will develop skills that demonstrate higher levels of learning. Students will have opportunities to produce original work indicative of the standards of advanced scholarship.

PHILOSOPHY

In developing curricula of a Family and Consumer Sciences Graduate Program which is responsive to individual and career needs of students, the graduate faculty has anticipated the changing nature of careers. As new careers emerge, new offerings may be incorporated within the program. A meaningful career and personal life requires that a person have not only specific skills but also flexibility, imagination, and the ability to make significant decisions. Graduate courses in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences aim for both personal and professional growth in the development of the total person.

The Graduate Program in Family and Consumer Sciences has these fundamental purposes:

- The development of an effective learning community in which all individuals appreciate and add to the store of human knowledge through research
- The development of leaders who will have the knowledge and skills to provide contributions to society
- The effective utilization of resources and innovative methods which enable students to anticipate and to cope with the demands of a changing society.
The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences of Illinois State University subscribes to the purpose of graduate study as set forth in the By-laws of the Graduate School:

"The Graduate School shall contribute to the advancement of knowledge through research and instruction. The Graduate School shall encourage qualified undergraduates to pursue graduate study, shall seek to foster in each graduate student a spirit of inquiry and a quality of scholarship or artistic excellence consistent with the highest traditions in graduate work, and shall prepare graduates who are able to assume the professional and scholarly responsibilities of educated persons in a free society."

The organization and administration of the graduate program shall be conducted in a manner consistent with the aims and objectives of the University, the College of Applied Science and Technology, the Graduate School, and the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.

STUDENT OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the program students will be able to:

1. Analyze current societal problem and identify the impact on human development and family dynamics.
2. Analyze scholarly, practical, and policy-related issues in family and consumer sciences disciplines.
3. Integrate the research process (design, methodology, analysis, and communication of results to scholarly and other audiences) into a thesis or significant research project.
4. Work effectively with faculty and student colleagues, community organizations, and decision-makers whose work impacts children and families.
DEGREE OPTIONS

Students may choose one of the following options to complete their M.S. or M.A. in Family and Consumer Sciences. Each option has a credit hour and a terminal requirement. The two options are as follows:

1. 32 semester hour program that includes a 9-hour core requirement and from four to six hours of credit in Master's Thesis FCS 499.

2. 39 semester hour program that includes a 9-hour core requirement and additional course work at the graduate level.

All graduate students, 32 or 39 hours, must successfully complete required core classes FCS 401, 445, and 497 (9 hour core). The courses include the following:

- FCS 401: Theories and Contemporary Issues in Family and Consumer Sciences
- FCS 445: Statistics in Applied Science and Technology
- FCS 497: Introduction to Research Methodology

Course description can be found at [http://illinoisstate.edu/catalog/pdf/grad.pdf](http://illinoisstate.edu/catalog/pdf/grad.pdf)

For the 32 hour master's program in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, a minimum of 16 semester hours must be completed in family and consumer sciences course work with at 50 percent of the courses being at 400 level or above excluding Master's Thesis (FCS 499). The 39 semester hour requires at least 18 semester hours in courses numbered 400 or above and at least 20 hours in Family and Consumer Sciences. The student may not present credits in Master's Thesis (FCS 499) toward the degree unless his/her thesis is completed, approved by the Thesis Consultant from the Graduate School, and deposited in the Graduate School Office. Students may not change from a 32-hour option to a 39-hour option after submitting a Degree Audit form to the graduate office (typically submitted during the students’ final semester).

The terminal requirement in each option requires application of knowledge and demonstration of skills. In each option, the student is expected to conform to an approved standard of scholarship and to provide evidence of his/her ability to think logically, to draw and defend conclusions, and to present the results in a creditable manner.
SUGGESTED PLANS OF STUDY BY CONCENTRATION*

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SCIENCE

A. Suggested Electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FCS 307</td>
<td>Infant &amp; Preschool Child (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 310</td>
<td>Family Crises (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 314</td>
<td>Early Childhood Nutrition Education (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 330</td>
<td>Decision-Making for Consumers (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 333</td>
<td>Family and Consumer Public Policy (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 305</td>
<td>Families in Later Life (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 308</td>
<td>Organization and Administration of Early Childhood Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 309</td>
<td>Couple Relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 394</td>
<td>Health Aspects of Aging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 400</td>
<td>Independent Study (1-4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 402.02</td>
<td>Child Life Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 402.02</td>
<td>The Hospitalized Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 424</td>
<td>Selected Problems (1-6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 491</td>
<td>Internship in College Teaching (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 498</td>
<td>Professional Practice (1-6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEA 416</td>
<td>Advanced Managerial Business Communications (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT 349</td>
<td>Technical Writing II (3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*University requirements, such as minimum class enrollment, make it necessary to offer courses on a variable schedule. Students are encouraged to formulate their course needs and inform their advisor so that the department can assess what courses can be offered in future sessions.
### Additional Electives for the Human Development and Family Science Concentration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COM 325</td>
<td>Theory and Research in Interpersonal Communication</td>
<td>(prereq COM 110, 297)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM 331</td>
<td>Human Communication and the Aging Process</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM 392</td>
<td>Topics in Communication Instruction</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM 481</td>
<td>Seminar in Communication Education</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM 492</td>
<td>Seminar in Communication theory</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM 494</td>
<td>Seminar in Small Group Communication (prereq COM 323 or consent of instructor)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 303</td>
<td>Adult Development and Aging (prereq PSY 111)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 360</td>
<td>Learning (prereq PSY 111)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 364</td>
<td>Motivation (prereq-9 hours in PSY)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 418</td>
<td>Theories of Learning (prereq PSY 231 or 360)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 420</td>
<td>Theories of Personality</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 464</td>
<td>Theories and Techniques of Counseling</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 311</td>
<td>Issues in Gerontology (prereq SOC 211 or consent of instructor)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 341</td>
<td>Sociology of Sex Roles</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 342</td>
<td>Advanced Human Sexuality (prereq SOC 123 or PSY 123)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 431</td>
<td>Advanced Social Psychology</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 469</td>
<td>Seminar in Sociology</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHILD LIFE

The Graduate Program in FCS offers a specialty in Child Life. Following is a list of required and elective courses for students pursuing Child Life study.

A. Required Courses*
   FCS 401: Theories and Contemporary Issues in Family and Consumer Sciences
   FCS 445: Statistics in Applied Science and Technology
   FCS 497: Introduction to Research Methodology
   FCS 306: Psychosocial Care of Children & Families in Healthcare Environments
   FCS 307: Advanced Child Development Applications
   FCS 403: Children in Health Care Settings
   FCS 404: Seminar in Child Life
   FCS 408: Human Development in Social Context
   FCS 498: Professional Practice/Internship
   FCS 499: Master's Thesis (if thesis option selected)

B. Elective Courses:
   FCS 304: Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood in Cultural Context
   FCS 363: Bereavement, Grief and Loss
   FCS 364: Basic Skills in Counseling
   FCS 424: Selected Problems in FCS (Play Therapy)
   FCS 333: Family Life Education Methods
   SOA 310: Medical Sociology
   FCS 310: Family Crises
   PSY 347: Behavior Disorders in Children
   SWK 323: Child Welfare Services

*Note: Some deficiency courses may be required depending on the student's undergraduate experience.

**Note: It is strongly recommended you take courses in medical terminology, human anatomy & physiology, and ethics course in order to follow Child Life Council guidelines and internship site requirements.
## APPAREL MERCHANDISING & DESIGN

### A. Suggested Electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FCS 321</td>
<td>Flat Pattern Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 323</td>
<td>Advanced Textiles</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 324</td>
<td>Draping &amp; Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 327</td>
<td>Clothing and Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 328</td>
<td>Economics of Fashion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 329</td>
<td>Apparel Product analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 361</td>
<td>Fashion History I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 362</td>
<td>Fashion History II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 365</td>
<td>Apparel Collection Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 368</td>
<td>Fashion Promotion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 369</td>
<td>Merchandise Planning and Control</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 371</td>
<td>Advanced Merchandising</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TECHNICAL WRITING:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEC 349</td>
<td>Technical Writing II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### MERCHANDISING EMPHASIS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FCS 328</td>
<td>Economics of Fashion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 368</td>
<td>Fashion Promotion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 369</td>
<td>Merchandise Planning and Control</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 498</td>
<td>Professional Practice</td>
<td>1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MQM 402</td>
<td>Management Fundamentals</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MQM 406</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MQM 111</td>
<td>Management Fundamentals</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MQM 120</td>
<td>Management Fundamentals</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MQM 121</td>
<td>Management Fundamentals</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MQM 144</td>
<td>Management Fundamentals</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MQM 145</td>
<td>Management Fundamentals</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FASHION DESIGN EMPHASIS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FCS 321</td>
<td>Flat Pattern Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 324</td>
<td>Draping &amp; Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 361</td>
<td>Fashion History I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 365</td>
<td>Apparel Collection Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 362</td>
<td>Fashion History II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### B. Suggested Courses to Make-up Deficiencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FCS 122</td>
<td>Apparel Product Development (optional)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 225</td>
<td>Textiles (required)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 226</td>
<td>Fashion Trend &amp; Industry Analysis (optional)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 228</td>
<td>Apparel Design (optional)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTERIOR DESIGN

A. Student with Undergraduate Degree in Interior Design

DESIGN RESEARCH EMPHASIS
Required courses in addition to 9 hour core
FCS 476 Interior Design IV: Studio (4)
FCS 424 Selected Problems in Interior Design (2 credit hours taken in conjunction with FCS 476)
FCS 400 Independent Study in Interior Design

SUGGESTED ELECTIVES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEC 217</td>
<td>Building Information Modeling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEC 430</td>
<td>Project Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEC 431</td>
<td>Project Initiation and Planning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEC 432</td>
<td>Project Implementation and Control</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 340</td>
<td>Interior Design I: Studio</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 345</td>
<td>Interior Design Business Practices</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 346</td>
<td>Environmental Lighting Design</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 347</td>
<td>Human Factors in Interior Environments</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 352</td>
<td>Rendering for Interior Designers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 370</td>
<td>Interior Design II: Studio</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 475</td>
<td>Interior Design III: Studio</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 498</td>
<td>Professional Practice: Family and Consumer Sciences</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Student with unrelated undergraduate degree

DESIGN DEFICIENCIES THAT MUST BE MET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FCS 104</td>
<td>Environmental Design Elements: Studio</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 218</td>
<td>Interior Construction and Building Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 242</td>
<td>Drafting for Interior Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 246</td>
<td>Visual Communication for Interior Design</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEC 117</td>
<td>Construction Graphics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEC 217</td>
<td>Building Information Modeling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SUGGESTED ELECTIVES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FCS 476</td>
<td>Interior Design IV: Studio</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 424</td>
<td>Selected Problems in Interior Design</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 400</td>
<td>Independent Study in Interior Design</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 338</td>
<td>History of Interior and Environmental Design I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEC 431</td>
<td>Project Initiation and Planning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEC 432</td>
<td>Project Implementation and Control</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 340</td>
<td>Interior Design I: Studio</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 345</td>
<td>Interior Design Business Practices</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FCS 346 - Environmental Lighting Design (2)
FCS 347 - Human Factors in Interior Environments (2)
FCS 352 - Rendering for Interior Designers (3)
FCS 370 - Interior Design II: Studio (4)
FCS 475 - Interior Design III: Studio (4)
FCS 498 - Professional Practice: Family and Consumer Sciences (3-4)
FOOD, NUTRITION, AND DIETETICS

Dietetic Internship:

Semester 1 (Fall)
Nine (9) semester hours graduate course work:

- FCS 420 Advanced Nutrition - 3 credits
- FCS 497 Introduction to Research Methodology - 3 credits
- FCS 401 Theories and Issues in Family and Consumer Sciences - 3 credits

Semester 2 (Spring)
Ten (10) semester hours graduate course work:

- FCS 445 Statistics - 3 credits
- FCS 417 Advanced Medical Nutrition Therapy - 4 credits
- Elective - 3 credits

Semester 3 (Summer)
Four (4) credit hours of graduate course work:

- FCS 498 Supervised Practice - 2 credits - 360 clock hours of graduate practicum (minimum)
- FCS 499 Master’s Thesis - 2 hours

Semester 4 (Fall)
Five (5) credit hours of graduate course work:

- FCS 402 Graduate Seminar in Food and Nutrition - 2 credits
- FCS 498 Supervised Practice - 2 credits - 360 clock hours of graduate practicum (minimum)
- FCS 499 Master's Thesis - 1 credit

Semester 5 (Spring)
Five (5) credit hours of graduate course work:

- FCS 402 Graduate Seminar in Food and Nutrition - 2 credits
- FCS 498 Supervise Practice - 2 credits - 360 clock hours of graduate practicum (minimum)
- FCS 499 Master’s Thesis - 1 credit

Students may also elect a non-thesis option. An additional 10 hours of graduate course work is required and must be approved by the Dietetic Internship Director in consultation with the Graduate Coordinator.
FOOD, NUTRITION, AND DIETETICS

A. Suggested Electives

FCS 311 Community Nutrition (3)
FCS 312 Medical Nutrition Therapy (3)
FCS 314 Early Childhood Nutrition Education (3)
FCS 315 Nutrition for Health and Physical Fitness (3)
FCS 316 Food Science (3)
FCS 318 Food Service Management (3)
FCS 319 Quantity Foods (3)
HSC 394 Health Aspects of Aging (3)
FCS 420 Advanced Nutrition (3)

Technical Writing:
TEC 349 Technical Writing II (3)

CLINICAL NUTRITION AND NUTRITION RESEARCH EMPHASIS

HSC 390 Drugs in Society (3)
BSC 329 Human Genetics (prereq BSC 219) (3)
BSC 386 Gross Anatomy (prereq HPR 182) (4)
BSC 387 Gross Anatomy (prereq HPR 182) (4)
CHE 342 General Biochemistry I (prereq CHE 232) (3)
CHE 343 Biochemistry Laboratory (prereq CHE 242 or 342) (3)
PSY 304 Gerontological Psychology (prereq PSY 111) (3)
PSY 333 Principles in Behavior Modification (prereq PSY 111) (3)
PSY 421 Advanced Behavior Modification (prereq PSY 331, 333 or 360 or consent of instructor) (3)

WELLNESS EMPHASIS

KNR 492 Advanced Concepts in Health Education (3)
HSC 390 Drugs in Society (3)
HSC 395 Media and Materials in Health Education (prereq HSC 286 and 290) (3)
HSC 396 Health Education Planning and Promotion (prereq HSC 286) (2)
BSC 386 Gross Anatomy (prereq HPR 182) (4)
PSY 304 Gerontological Psychology (prereq PSY 111) (3)
PSY 333 Principles of Behavior Modification (prereq PSY 111) (3)
PSY 421 Advanced Behavior Modification (prereq PSY 331, 333 or 360 or consent of instructor) (3)
SOC 311 Issues in Gerontology (prereq SOC 211) (3)
SOCIAL ASPECTS OF AGING

The Graduate Certificate in Social Aspects of Aging is a multidisciplinary program designed to offer a limited number of academically and professionally oriented graduate experiences in aging.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM

Potential applicants must have earned a bachelor's degree (or equivalent) and meet the requirements for admissions to the Graduate School as a visiting graduate student. Credit for courses may be applied to a graduate degree program if approved by a specific graduate program (see policy of Graduate School). However, the Sequence can also be completed in its entirety as a visiting graduate student. Upon completion of the Sequence, a notation of completion will be added to the student's transcript. Potential applicants may contact the Graduate School, or specific department advisers for application forms and further information.

SEQUENCE REQUIREMENTS

12 hours required which include:
Seminar in Gerontology (3 hours) to be taken after at least six of the other required hours have been completed, and 9 hours of electives from among the following gerontology related courses:

REQUIRED COURSE (3 hours)

Seminar in Gerontology (SOC 411)

ELECTIVE COURSES (9 hours)

Health Aspects of Aging (HSC/FCS 394)
Gerontological Psychology (PSY 304)
Human Communication and the Aging Process (COM 331)
Families in Later Life (FCS 305)

Experience in Gerontology
Each student enrolled in the Sequence may negotiate with the Sequence Representative in the sponsoring department credit for 3 hours of "experience" in gerontology. This may include, but is not limited to, 400 Independent Study or 498 Professional Practice in any department/program which is relevant to the Sequence. Each "experience" is expected to involve some focused writing and analysis assignments. This experience should ordinarily be permitted after other courses are completed, at least the Seminar in Gerontology. If the experience is of a "selected problems" type, a proposal should be approved by the Departmental Sequence Adviser no later than the 5th week of the semester.
## FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES EDUCATION

### A. Suggested Electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FCS 330</td>
<td>Decision-Making for Consumers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 331</td>
<td>Consumer Materials</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 333</td>
<td>Family and Consumer Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BTE 380</td>
<td>Organization and Administration of Vocational</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cooperation Education Programs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BTE 382</td>
<td>Coordination Techniques of Cooperative Vocational</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Education Programs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 400</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 402</td>
<td>Seminar in Family and Consumer Sciences</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS 424</td>
<td>Selected Problems in Family and Consumer Sciences</td>
<td>1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Writing:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT 349</td>
<td>Technical Writing II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

NOTE: Please consult Graduate Catalog for more detailed statements.

ADMISSION TO THE FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES GRADUATE PROGRAM

All students who wish to take work for graduate credit (on or off campus) must submit a formal application for admission to the Graduate School. A student who has completed work for a bachelor's degree, or who will do so within one academic year at a college or university that is accredited by the appropriate regional accrediting association, may apply for admission. Visit the Graduate School admission website at Grad.IllinoisState.edu/admission/ for detailed admission information required.

Types of Students. The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences recognizes two types of students who are eligible to enroll in graduate courses. These are: (1) degree student, and (2) Visiting Graduate Student. Below is a description of each.

Degree Student--A degree student is one who has been formally admitted to a program leading to a degree.

Visiting Graduate Student--A visiting graduate student (formerly student-at-large) is one who does not seek a degree or has not been officially admitted to a graduate degree program. Visiting students may enroll without submitting official transcripts to the Office of Admissions and Records, but is required to sign a disclaimer statement at each enrollment. Visiting students may register for courses for which he/she has the prerequisites, unless such registration is restricted by the Family and Consumer Sciences Department or the Graduate School. If a visiting student decides to pursue a degree at ISU, he or she may petition that previous courses taken may be accepted in meeting requirements for a degree. If the petition is recommended by the Graduate Coordinator and approved by the Graduate School, a limited number of courses may be counted toward a degree. All graduate courses taken as a visiting student will be computed into the graduate grade point average.

Admission to Master's Degree Programs. An applicant for a program leading to the master's degree must have a bachelor's degree from a four-year accredited college or university. Applicants are considered on the basis of their academic record and required examinations described below. To be admitted to a degree program, a student must have at least a 2.8 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) in the last 60 hours of undergraduate work and the approval of the Family and Consumer Sciences Graduate Coordinator.

Prior to admission, applicants are required to present Graduate Record Examination Aptitude scores. To qualify for admissions to the graduate program in Family and Consumer Sciences, a potential candidate must have a score of at least 148 on the verbal portion of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Potential candidates should also do well on the Quantitative and Composite sections of the GRE. Once the Graduate School receives the candidate's undergraduate transcripts and GRE scores, their
application will be forwarded to the Family and Consumer Sciences Graduate Coordinator for approval. If the grade point average and GRE scores meet the minimum standards for graduate students in Family and Consumer Sciences, the candidate will be admitted as a degree student.

If the applicant does not have a bachelor's degree in Family and Consumer Sciences or related field, the Family and Consumer Sciences Graduate Coordinator will indicate any courses that may be required to remove undergraduate deficiencies. The advisor may also specify certain undergraduate or graduate courses that will be required in addition to those listed in the Graduate Catalog or suggested in this Handbook.

International Student Admissions. Illinois State University requires that students from non-English speaking countries who seek admission to the Graduate School must take the “Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)” score or International English Language Testing System (IELTA) score. The minimum of TOEFL score required for international graduate admission is 79 (Internet-based testing), 213 (Computer-based), or 550 (Paper-based). The minimum IELTS score is a 6.5 band.

Students who are recommended for admission with scores lower than the minimum must be approved by the Graduate School. In addition to the TOEFL required for admission, all international graduate students are required, after arrival at the University, to sit for an Illinois State University administered English placement exam. Those who score below the acceptable level will be required to enroll in and successfully complete a special English course designed for international students.

When all required documents have been received, the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences will evaluate the credentials and make a decision as to acceptance of the student. Please visit the International Graduate Student Website for details about admission requirements.

DEGREE AUDIT

Application for degree audit is an important formal step required by the Graduate School. Form must be submitted before the beginning of the semester or summer session in which the degree is expected to be received, after a student has enrolled for his or her final semester. Lists of dates and deadlines for a given year are available from the Family and Consumer Sciences Graduate Coordinator.

The instructions are as follows and form is available at http://grad.illinoisstate.edu/downloads/mastersdegreeaudit10.pdf

1. Please do not submit this form until the student has enrolled for his or her final semester.

2. Coordinators may choose to fill in course names and numbers themselves on the electronic form, or they may delegate that task to the student or a staff member,
who will then electronically forward the form to the coordinator for review. Rationales and request for exceptions need to be complete by the coordinator.

3. After reviewing this form with the student, the graduate coordinator emails it, along with any required attachments, to Grad.Degree.Audit@ilstu.edu. Submission directly from the graduate coordinator’s ISU email account serves as the coordinator’s signature on the form and is required for the degree audit.

RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT

A candidate for a master's degree in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences is not required to complete a residence requirement. However, as an institution receiving support from State of Illinois tax revenue, Illinois State University extends a preferential tuition rate to residents of the state. Residency status is determined by applicable state and federal law and University policy. Once you have lived in Illinois for at least six (6) months, you can apply for residency by completing and submitting the Petition for Change of Resident Status through the Registrar’s Office.

DIVERSITY TUITION WAIVER

Diversity Tuition Waivers are awarded competitively on a case-by-case basis to U.S. citizens from traditionally underrepresented groups. In an effort to provide support to persons from traditionally underrepresented groups who have been admitted to an Illinois State University graduate degree program, the Graduate School is able to offer a limited number of Diversity Tuition Waivers.

The instructions are as follows and form is available at http://grad.illinoisstate.edu/downloads/ tuition waivers/diversity tuition waiver fellowship application.pdf

1. Submit your completed application and personal statement* to the Graduate School by these priority dates for best chance at funding: Fall - July 1, Spring - October 1, Summer - March 1.

2. Personal statement: You must submit a brief personal statement of no more than 250 words describing how your experience and perspective as a member of an underrepresented group has resulted in and/or is expected to result in your unique contributions to your respective graduate program, academic discipline, and overall campus community.

TIME LIMIT

All graduate credit used in meeting requirements for the master's degree must be earned within a period of six years. Masters students whose six year time to degree has expired may formally request to extend time to complete the degree program.
TRANSFER OF CREDIT

On approval of the Graduate School, a student may present a maximum of nine semester hours of graduate credit from another college or university for use in meeting the requirements of the master's degree. A departmental evaluation of all courses presented will be necessary prior to the approval of the Graduate School. A student who plans to take courses elsewhere is advised to have such work approved in advance to make sure that the courses are appropriate for the student's curriculum at Illinois State University.

To be considered for transfer of credit, a course must be taught at the graduate level from colleges or universities accredited by the appropriate regional accrediting association and the student must have received at least a B grade in the course. (Click here to read additional information and access the form).

GRADING SYSTEM

The grading policy of the Graduate School requires monitoring graduate students after every grade period. Courses completed at this University with grades below C will not count toward a graduate degree, but these grades (D, F, and WF) are counted in computing the cumulative grade point average. The policy, as stated in the Graduate Catalog, can be found in the Grading System section.

ACADEMIC LOAD

Nine to twelve hours is the usual load and fifteen hours the maximum load for a graduate student during the fall and spring semester. In the twelve-week summer session the maximum load is twelve semester hours. Students are considered full-time if they register for nine or more hours during the fall and spring semesters and six or more hours in the twelve week summer session. Student fees are assessed on a per hour basis.

If a student holds an assistantship, the minimum academic class load is 9 hours in the fall and spring semesters. A graduate assistant in their last semester of graduate studies who needs fewer than 9 hours to complete the degree must have a Graduate Assistant Course Load Waiver Request approved before the beginning of the last semester by his or her graduate advisor and by the Graduate School.

WITHDRAWAL

A student should consult the Registrar’s website to obtain specific final withdrawal dates for a given term. After the period during which program changes are made, a student must meet with the instructor of any course from which the student is planning to withdraw. If withdrawing from the University, the student is not required to contact his/her instructor. Withdrawal is processed in the Office of the University Registrar.
Whether withdrawing from a course or withdrawing from the University, the student will need to keep his/her record in good form. Students should read the Graduate Catalog for complete statements on "withdrawals."

REFUNDS

A current Graduate Catalog should be consulted to determine policies on refunds of tuition and fees.

GRADUATION INFORMATION

A graduate student must apply for graduation by completing an Application for Completion of Degree form before the deadlines specified for each session in the calendar in the Graduate Catalog. At the time the application is submitted, the degree completion fee must be paid. Dates and deadlines are available at the Graduate School website.

Degrees are conferred and diplomas awarded after the close of each semester and summer session. Commencement is held twice each year in May and December only, participation is voluntary. You must file a Commencement Participation Form during the semester in which you plan to participate in the ceremony.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

Graduate assistantships (GA) are available in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. Every effort is made to assign graduate assistants to responsibilities that supplement their formal studies. Further information about graduate assistantships is available at the ISU Graduate School website http://grad.illinoisstate.edu/funding/assistantships/ Application forms for graduate assistantships should be completed and submitted to the Graduate Coordinator of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Master's degree graduate students must have a 3.0 undergraduate GPA and be enrolled full-time (9 semester hours) in a degree program to be appointed to an assistantship. GAs are expected to maintain a 3.0 GPA and continue to be enrolled full-time to retain their positions.

The suggested academic load for graduate assistants is nine to twelve semester hours. Students with questions about registration and course load should refer to the ISU Graduate Handbook http://hr.illinoisstate.edu/downloads/GA_Handbook.pdf and discuss the issue with their academic advisor. The work assignment of graduate assistants may be either 10 or 20 clock hours per week.

A graduate assistant receives a monthly stipend plus a waiver of tuition (including out-of-state tuition.) Registration fees for a graduate assistant (other than tuition) are the
same as fees assessed any other graduate student, except that every graduate assistant pays an insurance fee regardless of number of semester hours taken.

Every master's degree student who has had an assistantship for at least a full semester during the academic year also receives a tuition waiver for the summer session following his/her assistantship, even though he/she does not receive a summer stipend.

As staff members of the department, graduate assistants have both privileges and responsibilities. When the graduate assistant is working in a classroom or laboratory, the assistant will be expected to dress and conduct himself/herself as a staff member and a professional. They may be asked to assist in the evaluation of courses and to participate on committees.

Applications to be a GA are available through Human Resources. There is a link on the Graduate School GA website [http://grad.illinoisstate.edu/funding/assistantships/](http://grad.illinoisstate.edu/funding/assistantships/) under “Apply to be a GA”. Once accepted into graduate programs in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, students will also be required to complete department specific applications. These forms and links will be sent to them directly.

**INDEPENDENT STUDY/INDEPENDENT EXPERIENCE PROCEDURES**

**Before Registration the Student will:**

1. Meet with the Department Graduate Coordinator or academic advisor to discuss the possibility of pursuing an independent study/experience.

2. List possible topics for the study so that a wise choice can be made and select a tentative topic to be studied.

3. Consult with a member of the FCS Graduate Faculty who has background and/or experience in the topic area and obtain consent of faculty member to serve as independent study supervisor. (Consent is necessary prior to registration).

4. Consult with the Independent Study Supervisor in order to:
   a. determine the number of credit hours for the study (48 clock hours of study are required for each semester hour of credit),
   b. refine an outline for the project (including a description of the independent study experience, objectives, student requirements, and the evaluation process),
   d. arrange a supervisory conference meeting schedule.
6. Submit the typed Proposal Form (link above) to the Graduate Coordinator. (The form should have signatures completed prior to or soon after registration).

After Registration the Student will:

7. Follow the conference meeting schedule. (see above).

8. Complete the independent study student requirements as outlined. All written materials (e.g. reports, bibliographies, literature reviews) and/or projects (e.g. creative artifacts, original designs, exhibits) are expected to be completed in a professional manner. All clinical hours should be completed in a timely and professional manner.

9. Communicate regularly with all supervisors involved in the independent study. Coordinating communication with all persons involved in the independent study is the responsibility of the student.

10. Schedule final evaluation with independent study supervisor to discuss meeting objectives and completion of student requirements. A mid-semester progress assessment is encouraged.

THESIS

REGISTRATION FOR THESIS CREDIT

The student electing the thesis option must register for four to six hours of FCS 499, Master’s Thesis, as approved by the Graduate Coordinator. To register for FCS 499, the student must actually be working on the subject under the direction of the Thesis Advisor. No grade will be given for the course but credit will be entered on the student’s record by the Graduate School at the time the approved thesis is deposited in the Graduate School office. No credit for FCS 499 may be offered for the Master’s Degree by a student who does not complete a thesis.

THESIS ADVISOR

The thesis advisor is a FCS faculty member that takes the primary responsibility of guiding the graduate student’s thesis work. A thesis advisor should be a full member of the graduate faculty.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE THESIS ADVISOR

A. The thesis advisor helps the student prepare his/her thesis and serves as a liaison between the students and the graduate school in regard to the thesis.

B. The thesis advisor shall counsel and assist the student in selecting committee members in reference to faculty competencies most helpful to the student's objectives.
C. The thesis advisor has a responsibility to be available for periodic consultations with the student.

D. During the preparation of thesis, the thesis advisor is responsible for suggesting changes as needed in order to meet academic standards and Graduate School guidelines.

E. In most instances, the thesis advisor will act as the student's advocate.

**THESIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

A thesis is written under the direction of an advisory committee of at least two members of the graduate faculty which the student selects prior to writing the thesis proposal. The members of the thesis committee must be full or associate members of the graduate faculty. To include non graduate faculty members on the thesis committee, an exception may be requested from the Graduate School. A vita will be required for any committee member without ISU Graduate Faculty status. A student will submit the vita with the [proposal approval form](#) to the Graduate School for approval.

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE THESIS COMMITTEE**

A. The purpose of the committee is to provide guidance throughout the completion of the thesis.

B. The committee has the responsibility of approving the student's thesis proposal and the final thesis.

C. The committee has a duty to observe the standards and protect the interests of the university regarding the academic quality of work being done under its supervision.

D. The committee has a duty to protect the interests of the student.

E. If a committee member must be replaced, a new member is bound by the previous agreements of the committee. A professor who disagrees with prior commitments should not accept an assignment to that committee.

**The Graduate Coordinator**

The Department Graduate coordinator serves as the departmental administrator of all thesis work. The [thesis proposal approval form](#) and [right to defend form](#) should be submitted to the Graduate Coordinator.
PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR STUDENTS
Family & Consumer Sciences’ Thesis Checklist

Committee Planning Meeting Preparation
The planning meeting is an opportunity for all committee members to meet together to focus and finalize the methods for research and the thesis document format (two or five chapter). This planning meeting should occur within your first year of graduate course work.

_____ Explore the literature to find a ‘gap’ in your area of interest.
_____ Develop your hypotheses/research questions.
_____ Select a professor whose research you are interested in or a professor that is willing to pursue your topic area. You would ask this person to be the Chair of your thesis.
_____ Discuss with your Chair to determine the other member(s) of your thesis committee.
_____ One week prior to the meeting, send your committee members a draft of introduction, literature review, methods, IRB, sample survey questions, and research timeline.

Proposal Hearing Preparation
A proposal hearing provides an opportunity to present your research idea to all of your committee members. You need to schedule your proposal hearing in advance to make sure all committee members are in attendance. If you plan to graduate in May, holding your proposal hearing in August or September is a great way to ensure keeping to your timeline.

_____ Reflect on the comments from the Committee’s feedback to further develop your thesis.
_____ If copyright approval is needed, see Graduate School Website for appropriate form and procedure.
_____ With approval from your Chair, submit the IRB.
_____ Correspond with your Chair so he/she can provide feedback a couple times with you before sending proposal to other committee member(s).
_____ Schedule meeting with committee and contact FCS office to secure a meeting room.
_____ One week prior to the proposal hearing, send your thesis document including revised introduction, literature review, methods, references, and questionnaire to all committee members.
_____ Prepare a ~10 minute presentation covering the purpose of your research including a brief literature review and your plan for methodology.
_____ Print and bring a copy of the Proposal Hearing Form (Graduate School Website) with you to the proposal hearing. This form will be submitted to the Graduate School.
Thesis Defense Preparation

A thesis defense provides an opportunity to present your research and results with your committee and others you invite to the presentation along with a Q&A session. After the public presentation, your committee will discuss your thesis in detail with you. Bring a copy of your thesis document so you can take notes. Expect to have final editorial changes to your document after your defense, so plan ahead in your timeline and be aware of the Graduate School thesis deadlines for graduation.

_____ Talk with your Chair about your editing plan. He/she may want to receive your thesis document in sections, to edit sections at separate times.
_____ Give your Chair time to complete edits of your writing. You will likely go through several drafts of your thesis before you are ready for a defense.
_____ Schedule a meeting with committee and contact FCS office to secure a meeting room.
_____ Once your Chair has approved your thesis draft, send to the other committee members at least two weeks prior to your defense date.
_____ Refer to the Graduate School Website for complete instructions on obtaining a Right to Defend permission email.
_____ Prepare a 15-20 minute presentation in which you highlight your thesis research and results.
_____ After the defense, follow instructions on the Graduate School Website for information on electronic submission of your thesis document.
_____ Provide your committee members with a final copy of your thesis document in the format of their preference (PDF, Word, hardcopy). One hardcopy spiral bound thesis document needs to be provided to the FCS office prior to graduation.

STUDENT-FACULTY RESEARCH COLLABORATION

Graduate students in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences work closely with faculty on a variety of projects. Graduate assistants may help faculty with their research. Likewise, faculty play an integral role in the development of a thesis or other student research projects. Often these efforts result in a publication of research in a refereed journal or a book. The results may be presented at a professional meeting, and be included in a proceedings. It is the policy of the FCS department that these collaborative efforts recognize the contributions of all parties involved in the actual research process. Therefore, the individual that has clearly done the greatest amount of work on the research process (development of methodology, data collection, analysis, etc.) as well as the writing of the research report should be recognized as the primary author of the work It is expected that the student submits the thesis research for peer reviewed publication within three months of graduation. In the case of a thesis, the student should be the first author of any article, chapter, or presentation related to the research. However, after six months post-graduation, the Chair reserves the right to submit as first author. Additionally, if a committee members collects additional data and/or completes additional analysis, then that individual becomes first author and those who contribute to the final product should be considered as authors.
Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I write a thesis?

Writing a thesis gives you an opportunity to employ the research and technical writing skills you have learned while working on your Master’s degree. It also gives you an opportunity to explore a topic of your own interest in an in-depth manner. Not every graduate student should consider the thesis option. But if you enjoy research and writing, you would probably do well with writing a thesis. If you plan to continue your graduate studies after you finish your Master’s degree, you are well-advised to write a thesis.

Does thesis credit (FCS 499) count toward the number of 400 level credits I need in the 32-hour thesis option?

No. Thesis credit does not count toward the number of 400 level or FCS credits needed to graduate.

Is there any limit to the amount of course work I do as independent study?

Yes. You may take no more than 9 total hours in courses such as independent study (FCS 400) and professional practice (FCS 498).

I took courses at another university. Can I use these toward my Master’s degree in Family and Consumer Sciences at ISU?

You may transfer up to nine credits from another institution. They must be courses taken as a graduate student, and you must have received at least a grade of B. The graduate school will evaluate courses to determine if they are 300 or 400 level courses. Also, you must complete the transfer of credit section of the Degree Audit. In addition, all courses which are transferred must be approved as part of your graduate plan of study by the Family and Consumer Sciences Graduate Coordinator.

How is an advisor assigned for each student?

The Graduate Coordinator acts as your academic advisor. You need to contact the Graduate Coordinator each semester you plan to take courses to discuss what courses are required, and what might be suitable electives for your own program of study. If you plan to write a thesis, you may select your own thesis advisor. Your thesis advisor should have an interest in the topic you hope to investigate in your thesis. He/she also needs to be a full member of the graduate faculty. As soon as you select a thesis advisor, you need to meet with him/her regarding your thesis topic and any additional course work he/she might recommend you take that will assist you in investigating your thesis topic.

How soon should a Plan of Study be completed?

Early in your Master’s program, you should meet with the Graduate Coordinator to plan what courses you should take throughout your graduate career. If at all possible, you
should stick with this plan of study. However, should courses you had planned to take be cancelled or not offered while you are working on your Master’s degree, you will have to substitute others. This can be done after consulting with the Graduate Coordinator. The actual Plan of Study form that is submitted to the Graduate School should be turned in to the Graduate Coordinator no later than the first week of the semester in which you plan to graduate. A blank Plan of Study form may be obtained from the Graduate Coordinator or the Family and Consumer Sciences Office.

For what professional situation would completing an internship be beneficial?

Professional Practice gives you the opportunity to employ the skills you have learned while taking graduate course work. It also allows you to gain some very valuable on-the-job skills that cannot be taught in the university classroom. Therefore, Professional Practice is a very good option for all graduate students, no matter what area of concentration they have chosen. Currently, there are Professional Practice placement sites for each concentration in Family and Consumer Sciences. Professional Practice may be done during either the fall or spring semester, or during the summer. Some graduate students elect to take Professional Practice more than once, giving them the opportunity to gain professional experience in several job settings.

How long does it take to complete a Master’s degree?

Most full-time graduate students can complete a Master’s program in Family and Consumer Sciences in two years. The university requires a student complete all requirements for a Master’s degree in six years.

What advantages are there to being a graduate assistant?

Besides a monthly stipend and a tuition waiver, graduate students derive many professional benefits from their assistantships. First, they have the opportunity to work closely with one or two faculty members, usually teaching and doing research in their own area of interest. This close association with Family and Consumer Sciences faculty gives the graduate students an opportunity to grow professionally. They get to see what professionals with advanced degrees are doing at the university level. These contacts can be extremely beneficial once the student has completed his/her Master’s degree. Second, the work graduate assistants do the department helps them develop their teaching, research, and communication skills. Finally, graduate assistants are considered a part of the Family and Consumer Sciences staff. They can participate in faculty meetings and serve on department committees. Therefore, they have the opportunity to affect policy that governs their own academic programs.

What happens if I need to sit out a semester?

If you do not sign up for courses during a fall or spring semester, you are considered withdrawn from the University. When you are ready to continue working on your Master’s Degree, you will need to fill out the graduate admissions application again and
send it to the Office of Admissions and Records. Your application will need to be processed by that office before you can be re-admitted into the FCS graduate degree program.