Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What graduate certificate options are available in Family Life and Youth Development (FYD)?

Currently there are three FYD graduate certificates:

• Family Life Education and Coaching
• Leadership and Volunteer Management
• Youth Development and Leadership

What are graduate certificate programs?

A Graduate Certificate Program (GCP) is a prescribed set of graduate-level academic courses, designed by an academic department or program, and taken for credit by current or future professionals of a given field. Graduate Certificates offered by the Department of Youth, Family, and Community Sciences are designed to prepare and strengthen students in the areas of family life education, family life coaching, leadership and administration, volunteer management, and youth development.

What’s the difference between the NCSU Family Life & Youth Development (FYD) graduate certificates and the NCSU Family Life & Youth Development (FYD) master’s degree?

The master’s degree (non-thesis/thesis options) requires approximately 30 or 36 credit hours of coursework and may include a thesis, whereas our graduate certificates only require 12 credit hours of coursework. Courses required for graduate certificates can be applied to our master’s degree program. To learn more about the master’s degree program, visit yfcs.cals.ncsu.edu.

How much does it cost to apply to a FYD graduate certificate program?

There is a $25 application fee to apply to the graduate certificate programs.

What is required in my Personal Statement?

Before you submit your application, please prepare a 1-page (minimum) personal statement in which you address your reasons for pursuing your chosen graduate certificate. Also include related qualifications, work or personal experiences, academic credentials, etc.

What is the deadline for submitting applications?

There are no deadlines for submitting applications for admittance to FYD graduate certificate programs; you can submit your application at anytime. Applications received after the beginning of a semester will be eligible for enrollment the following semester.

How long before I hear whether or not I’m accepted?

Applications are typically reviewed on a monthly basis. Please allow 3-4 weeks to receive notification of an admission decision via email. Applications are processed faster when application fees are paid online using a credit card. Payments made by check can take 1-3 months for processing.
Do I have to be accepted before I can start taking classes?

NC State allows students to take up to nine (9) credit hours of coursework without being accepted to a program (degree or non-degree). Non-Degree Studies (NDS) / Post-Baccalaureate Studies (PBS) students must complete an online application before becoming eligible to register for courses by following the steps outlined at http://www.ncsu.edu/nds/.

How much of the coursework is offered by distance education?

100% of the coursework required for FYD graduate certificate programs uses a distance education format. Some courses require students to attend synchronous meetings (~5 per semester). Synchronous class participation requirements are included in course syllabi.

What if I can’t attend a synchronous meeting?

Students who are not able to attend required synchronous meetings should discuss their situation with the instructor(s) and make arrangements to complete all required coursework.

Can I apply to a FYD graduate certificate program after I’ve taken a course or several courses?

Yes, you can apply to any FYD graduate certificate program after taking a course or several courses. We encourage students to do so.

Can I still apply even if my undergraduate degree is in an unrelated field?

Yes, you can apply to a FYD graduate certificate program even if your undergraduate degree is in another field. The only requirements concerning previous degrees are the following:

1. You must be a graduate of an accredited four-year college or university.
2. Your cumulative undergraduate GPA was at least 3.0.

What if I change my mind and decide I want to get a master’s degree?

You can apply to the FYD master’s degree program at anytime. Applications are reviewed each fall (Oct 1) and spring (Mar 1). FYD certificate courses will transfer into our master’s programs. Visit yfcs.cals.ncsu.edu for more information about admission/application requirements.

Can taking classes in a FYD graduate certificate program help me get accepted in to the FYD master’s degree program?

While successful graduate certificate coursework will not guarantee acceptance to the FYD master’s degree program, it will be considered as part of your total application package.

How much does it cost to take classes?

Cost will vary depending on the number of hours you take. For information about tuition and fees visit http://www.fis.ncsu.edu/cashier/ or http://distance.ncsu.edu (select Tuition from the header).
Is financial aid available for certificate programs?

Because certificate programs are not degree programs, certificate students are not eligible for financial assistance/financial aid. If you need financial assistance, contact NCSU’s Financial Aid Department. Staff can inform you of your options and provide names of reputable (educational) loan programs. They are also available to help students decipher the terms of loans.
http://www7.acs.ncsu.edu/financial_aid/

How do I find out about important dates like when to register and when classes begin and end?

Visit http://www.ncsu.edu/registrar/ and select “Registration Info” from the sidebar.

How do I find additional important dates in the academic calendar?

Visit http://www.ncsu.edu/registrar/ and select “Calendars” from the sidebar.

How do I know what classes are offered and when?

Visit http://distance.ncsu.edu and select “Courses” from the header.

How do I apply to the FYD graduate certificate programs?

Visit either website below to begin the application process:

- http://distance.ncsu.edu/apply-and-enroll/
- http://www.ncsu.edu/applygrad

I am a current NC State graduate student in another department. Can I earn a certificate in your program?

Yes! We have NC State graduate students in various departments across campus earn a graduate certificate in Family Life and Youth Development as part of their program of study. If you are a student in good standing in a NC State graduate program, you are eligible to apply. Current NC State graduate students should contact Dr. Huff directly if interested in applying.

I already have a master’s degree. Is a graduate certificate program for me?

Absolutely! If you already have a master’s degree, then you are eligible for admission. Many professionals earn graduate certificates as a way to enhance their professional skill sets, fulfill continuing education requirements, to stay current in their field, or to gain exposure in a new area.

If I have additional, specific questions not answered in the FAQ or anywhere on the FYD website, (yfcs.cals.ncsu.edu) who may I contact for additional information?

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