



## ***Masters in Special Education & Child Development: Child & Family Studies Concentration***

### **OVERVIEW**

Young children need a solid foundation to become thriving adults. Research supports the significance of early childhood years – prenatal development through kindergarten – to influence lifelong positive outcomes. Ensuring all young children have access to supports tailored to their individualized, diverse and multifaceted developmental and educational needs is essential. Collaborating with families and interdisciplinary professionals using strengths-based, family-professional partnerships is equally important.

**The M. Ed. in Special Education & Child Development: Child & Family Studies (CHFS)** concentration prepares professionals for leadership positions in education, early intervention, special education, healthcare, child advocacy, community, and family support programs. Enhance your professional career and learn research-based approaches with a program that emphasizes Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education.

Pursue an advanced degree on a part-time basis by completing 33 credit hours during a 2-year program including summer courses. Students who have an initial Birth-Kindergarten (BK) license at the time of application and acceptance will qualify for the North Carolina Standard Professional 2 (SP2) Educator license.

Our faculty have practical leadership and a wealth of knowledge, and have contributed to the discipline of Child & Family Development through publications, grant-funded research, community outreach, and extensive clinical experience working directly with families and children in a variety of professional settings.



### **CONTACT**

**JaneDiane Smith, Ph.D., Associate Professor**

Program Director: M. Ed. in Special Education and

Child Development: CHFS Concentration

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## ADMISSIONS

**Preferred Deadline - March 15**

**Final Deadline - May 1**

- Part-time admission/Fall term only
- Program alternates admissions of new cohorts  
Contact program director for next cohort

## PROGRAM DELIVERY

Beginning Fall 2024, students enroll in a 2-year online program. The program uses synchronous and asynchronous courses providing for face-to-face interactions students need to be fully prepared to excel in their future careers, while offering the flexibility and balance needed by students with vital obligations to work, family, and the community that require time and attention. Our cohort-based program encourages collaboration and networking with colleagues that flourishes beyond the UNC Charlotte campus.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates pursue careers in education, early intervention, early childhood special education, special education, clinical research, and higher education. They may also choose to continue their education with graduate programs such as the Graduate Certificate in Early Childhood Mental Health or UNC Charlotte's Ph.D. in Special Education.



## COURSEWORK

*M. Ed. students are required to complete a minimum of 33 credit hours. Research is a major component of our curriculum. A research project or thesis is required. The experience consists of a full written proposal, defense of the proposal to the research committee, conducting the research with Institutional Review Board approval at UNC Charlotte, And defense of the final project or thesis.*

### Child and Family Studies Core (15 Credit Hours)

- > **CHFD 6102:** Learning and Development
- > **CHFD 6115:** Child and Family Advocacy
- > **CHFD 6210:** Inclusive Education for Young Children
- > **CHFD 6220:** Family Theory and Research
- > **CHFD 6240:** Advanced Studies in Infant and Child Development

### Applied Research/Evaluation Courses (6 Credit Hours)

- > **RSCH 6101:** Research Methods
- > **CHFD 6900:** Research in Child and Family Studies (Master's Project/Thesis)

### Specialization (9 Credit Hours)

- > **SPED 6111:** Advanced Issues in EI/ECSE
- > **SPED 6242:** Enhancing Communication & Supporting Behaviors
- > **SPED 6350:** Young Children with Disabilities & Families: Interdisciplinary Collaboration

### Leadership Seminar (3 Credit Hours)

- > **7400:** Applied Leadership in Child and Family Studies