

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY

**FAMILY STUDIES AND INTERIOR DESIGN**



**Alumni profile**

“I was a single mother to a 4-month-old son when I began at UNK,” said Sarah Birnie, a UNK alumna originally from Broken Bow, Neb. “Previously, I had taken courses in education through another institution and felt I wanted to be more engaged with different aspects of children and their family’s lives. I was taking some general courses at UNK when I discovered Infant and Child Development with Dr. Stolzer and decided it sounded like something that could benefit my son and me, so I signed up for the class.”



**SARAH BIRNIE**

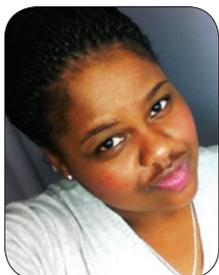
Birnie says she instantly fell in love with the program. “I decided that’s where I belonged, a family studies major. The FSID classes just fit my personality.” After graduating in 2011, Birnie is now a child and family services specialist for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services in Lincoln and works with children and families who are brought to the attention of the DHHS for safety concerns, abuse or neglect.

**FAMILY STUDIES Bachelor of Science**

In the family studies program, you will learn how individuals develop and change, plus how family, community and society affect human development. Completing the coursework, you will acquire the skills to create atmospheres for children, adults and families to thrive and relate to each other in healthy ways. You will also develop a respect for diversity in people and environments, and be prepared to work in areas that build individual and family strengths.

**Asha Johnson, 2014 graduate**

Family studies major, criminal justice minor



“I wanted to work with people, so I felt family studies was the best fit for me,” said Asha Johnson, from Minneapolis, Minn. “In the

program, we get to explore cultural, gender and age differences to gain a better understanding of people, their culture and family structures. In a sense, we get to travel the world without going anywhere.”

**Potential employers**

- Alcohol treatment centers
- Childcare facilities
- Crisis centers
- Family counseling programs
- Home health care services
- Local and state service agencies
- Retirement facilities
- Social service agencies

**Career titles**

- Advocacy agent
- Case manager
- Childcare director
- Family educator
- Senior center director
- Victim caseworker
- Youth services coordinator

**“In the past, the definition of family has been selective and often rigid in description, leaving many to wonder about the validity of their own family. Given the various configurations of families today, creating a contemporary definition of family can be a difficult task. The definition of family takes on diverse meaning depending on the context from which it comes.”**

*(Moore and Asay, 2013)*

**FAMILY STUDIES**

**FOUR YEAR CLASS SCHEDULE: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

The schedule is a sample guideline for progress toward a degree. Consult with your academic adviser.

<p><b>Semester 1 (15 credits)</b></p> <p>GS core ENG 102 Writing and Research                  GS core Oral Communication                  GS Portal 188 course (your choice)                  GS FSID 151 Human Sexual Behavior                  FSID 150 Lifespan Development</p>	<p><b>Semester 2 (16 credits)</b></p> <p>GS core Democracy in Perspective                  GS Natural Sciences course with lab                  GS PSY 203 General Psychology                  FSID 253 Child and Adolescent Dev.                  Unrestricted elective</p>
<p><b>Semester 3 (15 credits)</b></p> <p>GS Humanities course                  GS core MATH                  GS FSID 351 Marriage and Family                  FSID 250 Infant Development                  FSID 302 Parent Education</p>	<p><b>Semester 4 (15 credits)</b></p> <p>GS Aesthetics course                  GS Natural Sciences course                  FSID 340 Family Life Education                  FSID 362 Families and Social Policy                  Minor or second major course</p>
<p><b>Semester 5 (14 credits)</b></p> <p>GS Humanities course                  GS electives (2 credits)                  FSID 406 Family Resource Management                  FSID 481 Cross-Cultural Family Patterns                  Minor or second major course</p>	<p><b>Semester 6 (15 credits)</b></p> <p>FSID 450 The Aging Adult                  Minor or second major course                  Minor or second major course                  Unrestricted elective                  Unrestricted elective</p>
<p><b>Semester 7 (15 credits)</b></p> <p>GS Capstone 388 course (your choice)                  FSID 402 Selected Readings in F.S.                  Minor or second major course                  Minor or second major course                  Unrestricted elective</p>	<p><b>Semester 8 (15 credits)</b></p> <p>FSID 404 Family Studies Practice                  FSID 475 Internship                  Minor or second major course                  Minor or second major course                  Unrestricted elective</p>
<p>Recommended elective: FSID 486 Families in Crisis</p>	

**Council on Family Relations**

Council on Family Relations is a campus organization for students who are dedicated to understanding and strengthening families.

**Scholarships available**

- Mary Badger Memorial Scholarship
- Mary Harshfield Beekman Scholarship
- Sharyn and Edward Crossman Scholarship
- Deborah Dirks Memorial Scholarship
- Family Studies Student Scholarship Fund
- Delia Garrett Memorial Fund
- Willamette Martin Scholarship Fund
- Georgia Warren Spelts Scholarship
- Gamma Phi Beta Alum Kay Christensen Scholarship

**Traits for success**

- Shows great interest in people
- Pays attention to needs of others
- Communicates effectively
- Listens well
- Practices empathy
- Cooperates and works well with others

**Reasons to major in family studies at UNK**

- To learn and understand issues related to family relationships
- To satisfy your desire to improve the lives of individuals, families and communities

**For more information, contact:**

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**FSID - 0115**



**ALUMNI PROFILE – Amanda (High) Giffin**

“I love working with kids every day, and guiding people through personal challenges and growth. I am also extremely passionate about mentoring, so my job is a perfect fit for me,” said Amanda (High) Giffin, a 2013 UNK family studies graduate. Giffin is now the mentoring and outreach coordinator at Kids Can Community Center in Omaha, Neb., and oversees recruiting, screening and training mentors as well as implementing various programs such as parent outreach, community outreach and social media.

“I pursued my major because I always was interested in family and individual dynamics. Family studies could provide me with the right knowledge of what makes people the way they are and how to best meet their needs. The professors always encouraged me to do my best. Not only did they care about their students succeeding in school, but they also cared about who we were as individuals going out into the workforce.”