

## HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & FAMILY STUDIES (HDFS) ADMISSIONS EVALUATION RUBRIC

This rubric assists the admissions committee with their holistic evaluation of applications to our graduate program. Program considerations such as funding availability and faculty capacity are also taken into account when making admissions decisions.

Category	Where to find evidence	Excellent (5)	Good (3)	Poor (1)
<b>1. Clear direction of research and professional goals</b>	Statement of purpose	Stated direction is clear, coherent, and consistent throughout the application. Deviations from previous work are well explained. Additionally, evidence of self-motivation, drive, and/or capacity to bring projects to completion.	Stated direction is somewhat broad, inconsistent or vague and yet shows potential for focus and growth.	Direction is vague, unclear or inconsistently articulated.
<b>2. Faculty interest match</b>	Supplemental questionnaire; statement of purpose	Clear and direct match between faculty expertise and applicant interests.	Some overlap of relevant interests or approaches.	Limited match with faculty interests.
<b>3. Research orientation</b>	Transcript; statement of purpose; letters of reference	Conveys commitment to the value of rigorous quantitative or qualitative research, such as: clear focus on how advancing research will serve long-term educational and professional goals; OR demonstration of advanced data analysis or statistical skills; OR substantial coursework, publications, or presentations.	Some mention of how advancing research will serve long-term educational and professional goals; OR some relevant coursework; OR noted interest in acquiring advanced data analysis or statistical skills.	Commitment to the value of rigorous quantitative or qualitative research is unclear. No emphasis on how advancing research will serve long-term goals; AND little or no experience in prior research; AND lack of stated interest in acquiring advanced analytic skills.
<b>4. Writing Quality</b>	Statement of purpose; Writing sample	Writing of the highest quality - clear, cohesive, concise, organizations and logical progression of ideas, etc.	Writing is generally good but could use some improvement in style or logical flow.	Written products are unclear, hard to follow, errors of logic, etc.
<b>5. Social justice and equity orientation</b>	Statement of purpose; interviews	Clear evidence of capacity to understand the ways in which context, history, cultural values and norms, and other social dimensions are applicable to the applicant's research area, the research process, or the field more broadly.	Some evidence or commentary on these principles with potential for growth.	Not addressed or clear lack of alignment.