

## Commonly Asked Question page

### ***I haven't heard of the Family and Consumer Sciences degree. Is it a new degree?***

No this degree is not new. In fact, Family and Consumer Sciences has its root in the first discipline and degree programs developed for young women at Land Grant Universities. Domestic Sciences, domestic economy, human ecology, human environmental sciences and home economics are a few of the many alternative names used over the years. That said, Family and Consumer Sciences is much more than what a person thinks of when they hear the previously mentioned titles. FCS is a discipline and profession that focuses on an integrative approach to the relationships among individuals, families, and communities as well as the environments in which they function.

### ***What type of careers do Family and Consumer Sciences graduates go into after graduation?***

#### **If You . . .**

Are interested in people  
Like to lead, teach and motivate  
Take pride in your judgment and organizational skills  
Look forward to being a member of a creative team  
Enjoy writing and public speaking

#### **You Could . . .**

Counsel families  
Design efficient environments  
Develop improved products and services  
Manage operations  
Market consumer products and services  
Provide information to the public  
Research needs, attitudes and markets  
Teach in public and private settings

***Your Career Possibilities are Endless!***

#### **TEACHING IN A VARIETY OF SETTINGS**

Graduates dedicated to education may:

- specialize in early childhood education-preschools, kindergarten, and primary grades;
- instruct middle and high school students about nutrition, interpersonal relationships, human sexuality, human development and parenting, financial management, consumer purchasing, and resource management;
- be responsible for the prevention and treatment of injuries associated with secondary/collegiate interscholastic athletic programs;
- teach adults about nutrition and food safety, retirement planning, consumer economics, and family relationships; or
- organize distance learning experience for youth and adults.

#### **WORKING IN FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AGENCIES**

Graduates interested in one-on-one relationships may:

- counsel families on how to enhance their quality of life through better budgeting, improved purchasing decisions, and more economical housing selection;
- assist those with disabilities in managing family responsibilities and living independently;
- provide legal and financial guidance services;
- advise members of youth groups on social coping skills; or
- administer childcare or eldercare services.

#### **DEVELOPING IMPROVED PRODUCTS AND SERVICES**

Graduates who choose this setting may:

- develop products, services, and programs to meet the needs of consumers and clients, considering such factors as associated costs, risk, and environmental concerns;
- work in laboratories to design improved appliances, fabrics, or furniture;

- prepare preliminary product prototypes and demonstrate their benefits;
- create and evaluate food products in a test kitchen;
- perform tests of new/improved products or services;
- experiment with different methods of labeling, serving, and motivating consumers;
- create computer software to enable families to optimize financial planning and budgeting; or
- write instructions for users/providers.

#### **MARKETING CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND SERVICES**

Graduates choosing careers in this arena may:

- manage or work in direct sales promotion of food, apparel, interior furnishings, and other consumer goods;
- provide customer services in hotels, restaurants, resorts, and convention/tourism centers;
- administer personal counseling services in nutrition, financial management, parenting, and eldercare; or
- monitor customer needs, trends, and satisfaction levels.

#### **RESEARCHING NEEDS, ATTITUDES, AND MARKETS**

Graduates with inquiring minds might enjoy a setting in which they may:

- direct market surveys to determine consumer interests and habits;
- study research reports and government data to detect trends;
- conduct tests of products or services to assess satisfaction/ effectiveness; or
- evaluate workforce retraining needs.

#### **INFORMING THE PUBLIC**

Graduates with a strong journalism, public relations, and education background may:

- write articles for Web sites, newspapers, and magazines covering issues affecting the well-being of individuals and families;
- appear on television to discuss topics of interest to consumers as well as direct such productions;
- participate in radio talk show discussions;
- prepare educational publications to expand knowledge of environmental, nutritional, and conservation issues;
- develop technology assisted means to connect with the public; or
- provide consumer information regarding the use of the Internet and computers.

#### **MANAGING OPERATIONS**

Graduates with strong administrative skills may:

- purchase supplies and raw materials required for the production of specific goods or services;
- oversee distribution systems;
- implement marketing plans for goods or services; or
- administer personnel, consumer relations, product promotion, and public relations.

***I see I can teach Family and Consumer Sciences at the secondary level. What routes can I take to become licensed?***

1. If you have a high school diploma or community college credits you can enter the **undergraduate program** leading to teacher licensure.
2. If you have a bachelor's degree and want to become licensed to teach Family and Consumer Sciences you can apply for the **Post Bachelor** FCS licensure program.
3. If you have a bachelor's degree and are interested in becoming licensed to teach Family and Consumer Sciences but would like to earn a master's degree along with the licensing coursework you can apply for the **Master's and Teacher Licensure** program.
4. If you are licensed in another subject matter area and want to add the endorsement in Family and Consumer Sciences you can explore the option of **adding an additional endorsement/pathway** in FCS Education.

**Link the highlighted parts to the pages within the website.**

***What is the placement rate of FCS graduates?***

The placement rate for graduates is very high, especially for the students in the education track. School districts within Colorado, as well as other states, contact FCS faculty to inquire about the names of teacher candidates/graduates before jobs are even posted. It isn't uncommon for a FCS teacher candidate to be recruited to fill teaching positions before they complete their student teaching experience OR be hired into a teaching position shortly after attending a Teaching Fair. The post-graduation placement rate for Family and Consumer Sciences teacher candidates is 100% if students choose to continue in teaching and are mobile. The demand for teachers exceeds the supply in the state and nationally.

Family and Consumer Sciences graduates, not the education concentration, secure employment in a multitude of different careers. FCS concentration graduates have to be more creative in their job search and utilize resources available at CSU as well as networks they have developed throughout their undergraduate program. Internships provide added marketability, network building, as well as possible future employment opportunities.

***Are there any scholarships available for Family and Consumer Sciences students?***

The Family and Consumer Sciences program has very strong alumni support. Numerous scholarships provide students in the major with financial support. FCS students frequently receive All-College (College of Health and Human Sciences) and Interdepartmental scholarships for which they compete against the best and brightest students within the college. Applications for scholarships are awarded in the spring semester for the following school year. See the [scholarship](#) website for more information. Link to <http://www.chhs.colostate.edu/students/scholarships.aspx>

