

PROPOSAL: Rename the Family Science and Services Major to Youth and Family Studies

Background

The Undergraduate Studies Council has approved the renaming of the Family Science and Services Major to Youth and Family Studies offered by the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences in the College of Education and Human Development.

The proposed name change is being done for a few reasons:

- **Clarity and Appeal to Prospective Students**
The term "*Youth and Family Studies*" is more intuitive and accessible to prospective students. It clearly signals a focus on both youth development and family dynamics, which may resonate more with students interested in careers working with youth and families.
- **Alignment with Contemporary Terminology**
"Family Science" is a valuable academic term but may be unfamiliar or confusing to those outside the field. "Youth and Family Studies" uses language more commonly understood.
- **Reflecting Program Content More Accurately**
The curriculum includes significant content on child and adolescent development, youth services, and family systems, so the new name better reflects the scope and focus of the major. It emphasizes the dual emphasis on youth and family, rather than just family services.
- **Improved Marketability and Career Connection**
The revised name may better connect with career pathways such as youth advocacy, family support services, and nonprofit work. It helps students and employers more easily understand the major's relevance to real-world roles.
- **Inclusivity and Broader Appeal**
"Youth and Family Studies" may feel more inclusive and less clinical than "Family Science and Services," potentially attracting a wider range of students.

Recommended Action

Rename the Family Science and Services Major to Youth and Family Studies.