

UNIVERSITY: The University of Arizona

SPECIAL PROGRAM FEES REQUEST

College/School: College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Department: The Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences
Program: Family Studies and Human Development (FSHD)

Is this a graduate or an undergraduate program fee?

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM X

Is this a new fee or an increase to an existing fee?

NEW FEE X Amount requested: \$400 per academic year for upper division students

BACKGROUND:

This is a new fee request, which would enhance student hands-on, career preparation and leadership experiences in the Family Studies and Human Development (FSHD) major. The proposed program will help us not only continue the current career services but expand those experiences to ensure that our students are top candidates in the national job market for those seeking a job and/or in higher education for those who are seeking a professional or graduate degree. Faculty leadership team, faculty, and student leaders participated in the discussion in developing the proposal.

DISCUSSION:

The proposal includes specific discussion with respect to: the quality of the student experiences, cost of delivering the programs, access and affordability, market pricing, effective date and number of students who will be affected, student consultation and support, increased earnings potential of program graduates, and accountability. We expect that 200-300 students in the FSHD major will be affected by the program fee.

Norton School Overview

Innovative programs, a concern for society, a focus of hands-on experience and cutting-edge research unite the programs in the John and Doris Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences. Whether students are interested in helping troubled families, teaching parenting skills, or directing international imports for a major retail company, the School offers two critically acclaimed academic programs: Retailing and Consumer Sciences and Family Studies and Human Development. It is our goal that no graduate leaves the Norton School without opportunities for hands-on experience in the field and a head start on a future career. To meet such a goal and to provide excellent student career and leadership experiences, we propose a program fee for both majors, effective AY2010, for those who are in the upper-division standing.

Family Studies and Human Development Major

The Quality of the Student Experiences

Family Studies and Human Development (FSHD) majors are prepared to pursue careers and graduate training in fields such as human services, social policy, community and public health, counseling, social work, medicine, gerontology, and criminal justice/law. Majors complete a core curriculum designed to provide a foundation in family/interpersonal processes and human development across the life.

Complementary courses provide a grounding in social, behavioral and biological sciences, as well as career-enhancing skills in research, writing, communication, and program planning/evaluation. An award-winning faculty active in research ensures that students are exposed to meaningful, complex questions in the classroom. Students, especially those interested in attending graduate school, have opportunities to assist in faculty research projects.

One of the critical aspects of a successful program in this field is to provide students with hands-on work experience through supervised internships and practicums working with children, families, youth at risk, or adults in a variety of settings that include social service agencies, schools, mental health organizations, hospitals, and retirement homes. Experiences such as staffing a crisis hot line, teaching parenting skills, or facilitating a divorce support group for children would allow students to explore future careers, gain valuable experience, and provide vital outreach to the community. Although a structured internship program and career advising has been one of our top strategic priorities for the past 5 years, we have not been able to launch these programs, simply because we do not have resources that can sustain the program. Furthermore, the number of majors increased substantially last year, which makes it even more challenging to provide much needed career advising and experience. This clearly limits our students to pursue a career after graduation. Although our faculty members have provided research experiences for the increasing number of Honors students in recent years, we could provide additional workshops and advising for students to prepare for graduate school. The program fee would allow us to hire an internship and career advisor who can offer career preparation courses, internships, practicum, and workshops as well as individualized career advising. When students are better prepared, they are likely to seek careers in leadership and management positions as compared to entry-level positions.

Cost of Delivering the College/School Instructional Program

Program fees would allow us to launch a sustained career-focused program for our students by hiring an internship and career program coordinator. The coordinator then can develop and nurture relationships with local, statewide, and national agencies in the area of human services and help our students be placed with those agencies for internship and permanent careers upon graduation. The program coordinator would also offer a new course focusing on ethics, leadership and professional development) which would prepare students to become a successful interns prior to seeking an internship. Annual events focusing on career seminars, graduate program preparation, resume writing, leadership development, and a career-professionals panel can be also developed throughout the year.

The following programs are not covered by student tuitions and would not be offered unless additional resources are available through a program fee:

- Networking/internship opportunities with community contacts during classroom and special info sessions
- Career development seminars
- Individualized career advising
- Professional Development Senior Seminar
- Career preparation, leadership and ethics course
- Career connections – e.g., resume writing, interview skills
- Leadership opportunities as a Family Studies and Human Development Ambassador
- Student-faculty interaction luncheons
- Community Service experience
- Personalized service from outstanding faculty
- Panel of Career Professionals
- Internship Fair
- Speaker Series
- Grant-writing training and experience

- Conference attendance
- Summer Research Institute
- Evaluation of research interests and proper placement for assistantships

Access and Affordability:

We will set aside 17% of the fee to make it available for students who need financial assistance.

Market Pricing:

We propose \$200 per semester at the time of registration for upper division students. While we do not have a basis for peer programs for FSHD in general, the RCSC program in the Norton School which is proposing \$250, can provide a basis for market pricing. Given that most RCSC students enter a professional career in a private sector while most of FSHD students seek careers in non-profit sectors or an advanced degree, the lower pricing of \$200 than RCSC’s fee is justified. Our research regarding FSHD related programs at peer institutions indicates that our proposed fee of \$200 per semester (\$800 for the program for upper division program fees) is lower than the whole program fee of the closest peer program (\$1,400 of FSHD division in the College of Natural Sciences at the UT, Austin). More information is as follows:

Family Studies and Human Development Related Programs Fees			
	Semester	Program	
UT Austin College of Education	\$167	\$1,336	(lower to upper division)
UT Austin College of Natural Sciences	\$174	\$1,392	(lower to upper division)
UT Austin College of Social Work	\$191	\$1,528	(lower to upper division)
UA FSHD Proposal	\$200	\$800	(upper division only)
Ohio State College of Education & Human Ecology	\$75	\$600	(lower to upper division)

Effective Dates and Number of Students Who Will be Affected:

We request that the program fee be effective Fall AY2010. We anticipate approximately 200-300 students who are admitted to the major (The FSHD major is currently seeking a pre-major/major status, effective AY2010-11). The program fee will be applied to only those who will be admitted to the major, most of whom will be in junior standing.

Benefits to the Entire University:

The FSHD major and introductory courses draw a large number of minors from multiple majors (e.g., Psychology, Nursing, Sociology). Once we start building a career focus in Family Studies and Human Development, we can then begin to make a difference for students in other similar majors, particularly in social and behavioral sciences on campus. Furthermore, when our students in FSHD are more prepared for the job market and leadership positions, they would also make a greater impact on our community in enhancing the well-being of children, youth and families. Finally, the community agencies whose relationships are developed with us would enjoy the talents of our students while providing them with hands-on experiences. Therefore, we can strengthen the UA-community relationships throughout the state of Arizona.

Student Consultation and Support:

Our faculty advisors met with student ambassadors and leaders to get their feedback on the program fee proposal. The student ambassadors also consulted with their members to get their feedback. Students have demonstrated an enthusiastic support for the proposal.

Increased Earnings Potential of Program Graduates:

As indicated earlier, students who are prepared for a job market can compete for a leadership position more effectively in the human service sector as opposed to a low-paying entry level position. Those who seek a graduate or professional degree will also be better prepared for a competitive graduate school which will help them become more competitive when they graduate from a graduate or professional school. Competitive graduate schools also pay a higher graduate student stipend.

Financial Impact of the Request on Revenue:

The requested **new fee** will generate about **\$80,000** in new revenue next year that will be used to enhance the educational experience of the students.

Accountability:

Annually, the School Director and academic program leaders in the Norton School will review how the fees are used in support of student experiences, and an audit report will be filed annually.

RECOMMENDATION:

We recommend that the Arizona Board of Regents approve a \$200 per semester program fee for Family Studies and Human Development upper division students, effective AY2010-11.