

Consumer Affairs

What can I do with this degree?



A degree in Consumer Affairs, formerly known as home economics, can lead to a wide range of fulfilling careers in areas such as human development, personal finance, food science and nutrition, consumer studies, housing and interior design, apparel design and manufacturing, hospitality services, and culinary arts. Consumer Affairs prepare individuals for personal and family life across the life span as they merge the challenges of living and working in a diverse, global society. Focus is on families, work, and their subsequent interrelations.

Consumer Affairs Skills

- Strengthening the well-being of individuals and family
- Becoming responsible citizens and leaders
- Promoting optimal nutrition and wellness
- Managing resources to meet material needs
- Balancing personal, home, family, and work lives
- Addressing problems in diverse family, community, and work environments

Degrees

- B.A. in Consumer Science
- B.A. in Consumer Affairs
- B.A. in Consumer Affairs with teacher certification
- M.S. in Human Nutrition
- M.S. in Family and Child Studies
- Child Life Specialist track

Certifications

CFCS Professional Certification—AAFCS provides three premier credentials for Consumer Affairs professionals:

- CFCS—Certified in Family and Consumer Sciences (broad field)
- CFCS—HDFS—Certified in Family and Consumer Sciences, Human Development and Family Studies (concentration)
- CFCS—HNFS—Certified in Family and Consumer Sciences, Hospitality, Nutrition, and Food Sciences (concentration)

AAFCS offers three nationally recognized exams for assessing professional competencies:

- Family and Consumer Sciences Composite Examination
- FCS—Human Development and Family Studies Examination
- FCS—Hospitality, Nutrition, and Food Science Examination

Possible Work Settings

- Schools (Elementary, Middle, High School)
- Community Colleges
- Community Agencies
- Hospitals
- Government Agencies
- Vocational Centers
- Evening Adult Classes
- Extension Programs
- Private Educational Institutions
- Health and Human Services Agencies
- Nursing Homes
- Corporations

Possible Careers

- Event Planning
- Public Policy
- Child care
- Food Services
- Decorating Specialist
- Fashion Merchandising
- Adult Education
- Customer Service
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Human Resources
- Financial Advising
- Women's Centers
- County Extension Services

CAREER PATHS

(Some of the occupations outlined in this brochure may require additional education or training)

...in Education

Sample Job Titles

- Teacher
- Mentor
- Independent Living Skills Instructor
- Case Worker
- Community Educator
- Program Developer
- Continuing Education Instructor
- Parent Educator

Possible Work Settings

- Schools
- Community Agencies
- Government Programs
- Private Education Agencies

...in Business and Government

Sample Job Titles

- Public Policy
- Customer Service Specialist
- Human Resources Specialist
- Financial Advisor
- Consumer Studies Specialist
- Freelance Consultant
- Purchasing Agent
- Manager
- Lobbyist
- Consumer Economics
- 4H Agent
- Marketing Researcher

Possible Work Settings

- Consumer Industry
- Government Relations
- Marketing Agencies
- Household Product Companies
- Food Companies
- State Agencies



Resources

Texas State University-Student Organizations

- Family & Consumer Sciences Association (FCSA) <http://www.fcs.txstate.edu/people/organizations/fcsa.html>
- Phi Upsilon Omicron (Phi U) - Honor Society <http://www.fcs.txstate.edu/people/organizations/phiu.html>

Professional Organizations

- American Association of Family Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) <http://www.aafcs.org/>
- Family and Consumer Sciences Teachers Association of Texas <http://www.fcstat.org/>
- National Association of Teacher Educators for Family and Consumer Sciences <http://www.natefacs.org/>
- National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences <http://www.neafcs.org/>
- Texas Association of Family and Consumer Sciences <http://tafcs.org/index.htm>
- The American Council on Consumer Interests <http://consumerinterests.org/>

Job/Internship Search Links

- American Council on Consumer Interests <http://consumerinterests.org/career-jobs>
- AAFCS Jobs http://www.jobtarget.com/home/index.cfm?site_id=347
- Indeed <http://www.indeed.com/q-Family-Consumer-Science-Teacher-jobs.html>
- National Institute of Food and Agriculture <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/about/jobs.html>
- Simply Hired <http://www.simplyhired.com/a/jobs/list/q-family+consumer+science>
- Teacher Jobs http://www.teacherjobs.com/family_consumer_sciences_teaching_jobs.phtml

Career Library Resources

- Careers for Kids at Heart and Others Who Adore Them
- Careers in Education
- Making a Living While Making a Difference
- Opportunities in Event Planning
- The Complete Guide to Public Employment
- The Nonprofit Sector

Information compiled from:

Texas State University, North Dakota State University, Vocational Information Center, University of North Carolina Asheville, and North Carolina State University Career Services

www.careerservices.txstate.edu

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