

Department of Child & Family Studies

Statement of Teaching Credentials

Behavioral health is defined as the interdisciplinary scientific study of healthy and problematic behavior and factors that influence behavior, and includes content areas such as substance abuse, rehabilitation, mental health, and intellectual and physical disabilities. The Department of Child & Family Studies (CFS) in the College of Behavioral & Community Sciences at the University of South Florida (USF) provides a scientific, philosophical, applied, and humanistic approach to the understanding of behavioral health and is committed to improving the well-being of individuals, children, adolescents, and families within communities across America as well as globally through promoting respect, inclusion, development, achievement, behavioral health, and an optimum quality of life.

The CFS is committed to maintaining the highest standards of academic excellence for its undergraduate, graduate, and certificate courses. To achieve this goal, the CFS carefully reviews and credentials all instructors of record for our academic undergraduate, graduate, and certificate courses. We follow the USF and SACS requirements for credentialing, while at the same time, recognizing that behavioral health is an interdisciplinary field of study.

To maintain the breadth and quality of our interdisciplinary field of study, it is necessary to recruit faculty from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds. Thus, to be credentialed to teach undergraduate students in a baccalaureate course or undergraduate certificate, instructors of record must have a doctorate or master's degree in the teaching discipline or master's degree with a concentration in the teaching discipline (minimum of 18 graduate semester hours in the teaching discipline). Faculty and instructors of record teaching graduate, post-baccalaureate, and/or graduate certificate course work, must have an earned doctorate/terminal degree in the teaching discipline or a related discipline. As behavioral health is an interdisciplinary field of study, graduate and doctoral degrees (or a minimum of 18 graduate credits) can be in (including but not limited to) public health, health services research, psychology, sociology, anthropology, education, political science, human development, developmental disabilities, applied behavior analysis, geography, women's and gender studies, medicine, nursing, business, communications, public administration, rehabilitation counseling, mental health counseling, marriage and family therapy, addictions and substance abuse, law, and/or social work. CFS faculty/instructors who teach in the Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling CORE/CACREP program should be Certified Rehabilitation Counselors (CRCs) or certificate-eligible, or Licensed Mental Health Counselors (LMHCs) or license-eligible. Faculty/instructors who teach in the Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling Program without an CRC/LMHC or eligibility for either but who hold a Ph.D. or equivalent may be credentialed to teach Research and Evaluation, Legal and Ethical Issues, Human Growth and Development, Diagnosis and Psychopathology, and Individual Evaluation and Assessment courses or others with the approval of the department chair. CFS faculty/instructors who teach in the Applied Behavior Analysis program should be Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA) or certificate-eligible. Exceptions can be made based on credentials, clinical and/or research and teaching experiences. In some cases, CFS faculty may be credentialed based upon professional licensure or certification, research accomplishments, special training, or other competencies relevant to the course(s) being taught.

