



**Department Name Change from Human Development and Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies (HD-CAFS) to Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS)**

**RES 252640**

AAC, BPC

**RESOLVED:** That the Academic Senate approves the proposed department name change from the Department of Human Development and Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies (HD-CAFS) to the Department of Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS).

**RATIONALE:** The proposed new department name more accurately reflects the diverse program strands currently offered in the Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies degree program, which include training in the fields of human development and family studies. The new department name also aligns with the proposed new degree program title. This would correct the current misalignment between the Department of Human Development and Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies, which offers a Bachelor of Arts degree in Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies. Additionally, the current six letter acronym HD-CAFS is incompatible with CSUB software. Finally, the name change aligns with similar departments across the CSU. The existing department resources are sufficient to support this department name change.

*Attachment: Referral 2025-2026 40 Department Name Change Request for HD-CAFS*

**Distribution List:**

President  
Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs  
Vice-President for Student Affairs and Strategic Enrollment Management  
AVP for Faculty Affairs  
AVP Academic Affairs and Dean of Academic Programs  
College Deans  
Associate Deans  
Dean of Libraries  
Dean of Antelope Valley  
Dean of Extended Education and Global Outreach  
Department Chairs  
General Faculty

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Approved by the Academic Senate: April 30, 2026

Sent to the President: May 8, 2026

President Approved: May 28, 2026



**2025-2026 REFERRAL #40**

**Department Name Change Request for HD-CAFS**

**From:** Melissa Danforth, Academic Senate Chair

**To:** Tiffany Tsantsoulas, Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) Chair  
Amanda Grombly, Budget and Planning Committee (BPC) Chair

**Date:** January 20, 2026

**cc:** Katherine Van Grinsven, Academic Senate Administrative Analyst

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At their meeting on December 2, 2025, the Academic Senate Executive Committee requested that the Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) and Budget and Planning Committee (BPC) review and address the new proposal Department name change from Human Development and Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies (HD-CAFS) to Human Development and Family Sciences (HDFS).

During your discussion, please consider:

- rationale as presented in the attached proposal
- impact on students in the department.

Please take up this matter with your committees and get back to me with your recommendations. If your recommendation requires Senate action, please prepare a resolution and the rationale for the resolution.

Thank you.

Attachments:

- (1) Department of HD\_CAFS name change.doc

**DR. MELISSA DANFORTH, CHAIR, ACADEMIC SENATE**

California State University, Bakersfield

9001 Stockdale Hwy. • Mail Stop: 20 BDC • Bakersfield, CA 93311

**Katherine Van Grinsven**

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**From:** Melissa Danforth  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 24, 2025 5:00 PM  
**To:** Katherine Van Grinsven  
**Cc:** Danielle Solano  
**Subject:** FW: Dept of HD-CAFS name change request  
**Attachments:** Department of HD\_CAFS name change .docx

Hi Katie,

Here's an item for the EC agenda.

Melissa

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**From:** Alexander Reid <areid2@csb.edu>  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at 4:39 PM  
**To:** Melissa Danforth <mdanforth@csb.edu>  
**Cc:** Danielle Solano <dsolano@csb.edu>, Elaine Correa <ecorrea1@csb.edu>, Elizabeth Adams <eadams6@csb.edu>  
**Subject:** re: Dept of HD-CAFS name change request

Dear Melissa,

On behalf of the Department of Human Development and Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies, please accept our request for Senate Approval of our Department name change.

We consulted with Dr. Adams and our interest to begin the process of changing our Department name first with Senate approval and then we anticipate submitting a request to SSE Curriculum Committee to move forward with our degree name aligned with our Department name.

Please see attached for our name change approval request.  
Please let me know if there is any additional information needed.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Alexander

Alexander Reid, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor, Department of Human Development and Child, Adolescent and Family Studies  
California State University Bakersfield

Department of Human Development and Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies (HD-CAFS)  
Name Change Approval Request

Dear Colleagues,

On May 12 2022, the President of CSUB approved our request for a Department name change from Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies (CAFS) to Human Development and Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies (HD-CAFS). We were informed, however, that the 6-letter name would not work in PeopleSoft and we would need to have the name change be reflected on our degree. At this point, we would like to start with a name change from HD-CAFS to Human Development and Family Sciences (HDFS), which aligns with other CSU Departments in our field.

The Department of Human Development and Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies (HD-CAFS) faculty unanimously voted to change to Human Development and Family Sciences (HDFS).

The rationale for this name change was to service the diverse program strands in which our students seek a B.A. degree aligned with employment opportunities in the fields of Human Development, Resource Management, Teacher Education and Early Childhood and Family Sciences. Currently, our program description reads as follows:

*Program Options and Paths*

*Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Degree in Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies This program is geared towards students interested in working with children and their families in any of the following settings: preschool, childcare center, case management, criminal justice, Head Start, and the Department of Human Services. Students will earn a B.A. Degree in Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies.*

To ensure that our students can apply for positions that cover the vast range of options available with a CAFS degree, we would like to ensure that our Department's name reflects the diverse areas for which we serve as a feeder program.

Additionally, it should be noted that 3 out of our 4 full time faculty members hold degrees covered under the area of Human Development. The size of our Department is small, and therefore we cover a range of areas that other CSU's have divided into separate departments. In alignment with other CSU's, our department name should include the Human Development area as well as the Family Sciences domain. In accordance with other CSU's, for consistency and disciplinary convention, the name change aligns with our other campuses:

CSU Sacramento (BS in Family Studies and Human Development)  
CSU Monterey Bay (BA in Human Development and Family Studies)  
CSU Long Beach (BA in Human Development)  
CSU East Bay (BA in Human Development)

We propose HDFS as the 4-digit acronym for People Soft, in keeping with other institutions of higher education in the U.S.A. that offer the same degree. For example, Colorado State, Michigan State, University of Connecticut, Penn State, East Carolina University, Florida State, George Mason University, Georgia Southern, Indiana State, Kansas State, Iowa State, Mississippi State, and North Dakota State. All these institutions use HDFS as their acronym.

Once we have approval from the Senate for a Department name change, we will begin the process of aligning the Department name to the degree with submission to the SSE Curriculum Committee.