

Kingswood University
CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY (CFM)
OBJECTIVES, MEASUREMENTS, & OUTCOMES

The Children & Family Ministry program has consistently had low enrolment, thus providing minimal data. In addition, program objectives have been revised and consequently courses reworked in the past two years. Because of this, data is limited and therefore aggregate data for the past five years is reported (2017-2022)

OBJECTIVE 1 – Children & Family Ministry students will have a solid biblical and theological foundation for effective ministry to children and their families

Students learn by practice and example the importance of biblical theological teaching and leadership to children in the introductory course for this program building on material learned in the general education course, Developmental Psychology (PS 205). Students articulate a theology and philosophy of children’s ministry as the final assignment in Models of Children’s Ministry (CM 313). Students learn to combine attractional activities with biblical education and have the opportunity to apply practical biblical teaching in real ministry environments.

Benchmark – 80% of CFM students will earn a grade of at least 80% (B-) in assignments related to foundations for effective ministry¹

Data:

| | 2017-2022 |
|--|------------------|
| Percentage meeting benchmark | 83% |
| Number of courses | 4 |
| CFM students enrolled in above courses | 12 |

OBJECTIVE 2 – Children & Family Ministry students will learn practical and effective team dynamics for serving in a multiple staff ministry with professionalism

Students participate in graded active ministry experiences as a team in children’s ministry courses and learn valuable leadership dynamics serving with children’s pastors as part of a ministry team. Here they have first-hand opportunity to explore what it means to be part of a ministry staff. In Models of Children’s Ministry (CM 313) students must interact with the course professor in a way they might interact as a member of a ministry team, experiencing team relationships. Further experience comes in the four-month, full-time Supervised Ministry Experience (SME). In their final evaluation, SME supervisors rate their students on multiple elements at the mid-point and end of the four-month SME, using a four-point Likert scale. Several of the elements relate to the student’s participation as a team member.

Benchmark 1 – 80% of CFM students will earn a grade of at least 80% (B-) in assignments related to staff ministry²

Data:

| | 2017-2022 |
|--|------------------|
| Percentage meeting benchmark | 80% |
| Number of courses | 3 |
| CFM students enrolled in above courses | 5 |

Benchmark 2 – CFM students will earn an average rating of at least 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) by their SME supervisors on team-related outcomes³

Data:

| | 2017-2022 |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Average score | 3.8 |
| CFM students in enrolled in MIN 425 | 4 |

OBJECTIVE 3 - Children & Family Ministry students will be effective communicators of the claims of God's word in culturally relevant and age-appropriate ways

In addition to the preaching course all B.A. Ministry students are required to take (Homiletics, MIN 300), Youth & Family Ministry students have several experiences where they are required to teach and preach to teens in a real ministry setting, not only to provide teaching experience, but also ensuring they are communicating effectively with a specific audience. Students learn valuable biblical storytelling, and illustration skills and receive feedback from peers as well as from the professor.

Benchmark – 80% of CFM students will earn a grade of at least 80% (B-) in preaching and teaching assignments⁴

Data:

| | 2017-2022 |
|--|------------------|
| Percentage meeting benchmark | 73% |
| Number of courses | 3 |
| CFM students enrolled in above courses | 11 |

OBJECTIVE 4 – Children & Family Ministry students will have a working knowledge of the childhood phases of development and learn how to assist children in life transitions through incarnational relational ministry

Students learn about the students to whom they will minister, first in Developmental Psychology (PS 205), and then in the various children's ministry courses, in which they also consider how children's characteristics affect and inform ministry.

Benchmark – 80% of CFM students will earn a grade of at least 80% (B-) in assignments related to characteristics and development of children⁵

Data:

| | 2017-2022 |
|--|------------------|
| Percentage meeting benchmark | 100% |
| Number of courses | 5 |
| CFM students enrolled in above courses | 12 |

OBJECTIVE 5 – Children & Family Ministry students will participate in practical hands-on ministry experiences, implementing practical models of creative, need-meeting ministries for outreach and discipleship

Students enrolled in the Children & Family Ministry program have multiple opportunities to participate in hands-on children's ministry, culminating in the Supervised Ministry Experience (SME) which must take place in a child or family ministry setting and under the supervision of an experienced child and/or family minister.

Benchmark – 80% of CFM students will earn a grade of at least 80% (B-) in the practical experiences required for this program⁶

Data:

| | 2017-2022 |
|--|------------------|
| Percentage meeting benchmark | 86% |
| Number of courses | 5 |
| CFM students enrolled in above courses | 14 |

OBJECTIVE 6 – Children & Family Ministry students will understand the importance of partnering with families and have tools to support parents as the spiritual leaders of the home

Ministry to children includes ministering to the families of children. A course in this program is devoted to ministering to the entire family and supporting adults (parents of children). Written and practical assignments in this course provide experience in family-ministry. Students learn to write creative, biblical, devotionals for family ministry as well as how to deal with crisis in the home through a focused research paper.

Benchmark – 80% of CFM students will earn a grade of at least 80% (B-) in family-related assignments⁷

Data:

| | 2017-2022 |
|--|------------------|
| Percentage meeting benchmark | 67% |
| Number of courses | 3 |
| CFM students enrolled in above courses | 6 |

CONCLUSION/ACTION STEPS

For the most part, children’s ministry students are meeting the objectives of the program. Scores significantly lower than the benchmark relate to completion of assignments in a single, reworked course which has only been offered once to date (Family & Adult Ministry, CMYM 414). Significant revisions to this program have already taken place (2020-2021) so future results are expected to continue to demonstrate fulfillment of program objectives.

¹ Previously theology assignments (CE 101; CE 414); from 2021 forward Theology of Children’s Ministry paper (YM 313); Family Pastor Interview (CMYM 414)

² Modeling Staff Relationships assignment (CM 313); Onsite Ministry Assignments (CMYM 101; CM 313; CMYM 414)

³ Four measures are used: Empowers others and is committed to team building; Honours and respects lines of authority; Values team-based learning and service.

⁴ Story-telling assignments (formerly CE 101; currently CMYM 1010; future preaching & teaching assignments (CM 313).

⁵ Writing assignments about child development (PS 205, CMYM 101, previously PS 302)

⁶ Onsite Ministry assignments (CMYM 101); Practical assignments (CM 313); Family Devotional assignment (CMYM 414); Supervised Ministry Experience (MIN 425).

⁷ Four-week Devotional; Family Needs project; Parent Meeting observation & reflection (CMYM 414)