

## Family and Consumer Sciences FAQ



The following questions address Family Consumer Science Education and the various topics related to the field.

### Q1. What is Family and Consumer Sciences?

#### Answer:

Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) is the comprehensive body of skills, research, and knowledge that helps people make informed decisions about their well-being, relationships, and resources to achieve optimal quality of life. The field represents many areas, including human development, personal and family finance, housing and interior design, food science, nutrition, and wellness, textiles and apparel, and family relations. (Adapted from: [www.aafcs.org](http://www.aafcs.org))

[FCS Education Issue Brief: Importance in Schools](#) - This issue brief was developed to share with decision makers, community leaders and business and industry partners to share the role of FCS Education in today's schools.

[Developing Life Literacy in KS FCS Education](#) - KS Family and Consumer Sciences is needed now more than ever to address obesity prevention, healthy relationships, foundational employability skill development and human services related workforce training.

### Q2. What is Family and Consumer Sciences Education?

#### Answer:

Family and Consumer Sciences Education introduce middle school and high school students to the skills and professions needed to meet the needs of individuals and families, be they their own or those they interact with. The skills learned are applied through experiential learning projects within the classroom and through the [Family, Career and Community Leaders of America \(FCCLA\)](#) career and technical student organization.

Today's FCS professional practices in multiple settings: from early childhood through adult extension education. Administrators, managers, human service professionals, researchers, community volunteers, business people, and consultants address the issues most important to our quality of life.

Family and Consumer Sciences Education directly addresses many of the issues of concern in today's society including obesity prevention, bullying, personal and family finance and family relationships (see below for more information). It also introduces students to careers in the human services areas (early child, geriatrics, social work, credit counseling) as well as others (interior design, textile design, event planning/management, culinary arts and food science).

Family and Consumer Sciences Education itself is a viable career option. In fact, CNN identified Family and Consumer Sciences Education as the number one overlooked major with strong employment potential (Source: [CNN.com](http://CNN.com)) along with Food Science, Social Work and Gerontology (all addressed by FCS Education linked careers). (Adapted from: [AAFCSS](http://AAFCSS))

### Q3. What is the need for Family and Consumer Sciences Educators in Kansas?

#### Answer:

It is predicted that Kansas will need to fill approximately 140 FACS Education openings by 2018 to keep the positions that exist today. Expansion of FCS programs would be in addition to this number. (Source: KSDE data search). Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Education is looking for enthusiastic, dedicated people to become middle and high school FACS teachers.

- There are two methods of becoming FCS Education teachers in Kansas. They are:
  - High school graduates who want to earn a four-year degree in Family and Consumer Sciences Education
  - Adults who have a degree and/or work experience in an FCS-like career and want to become certified to teach.
- You can make a difference in the lives of Kansas students by promoting FCS Education as a career. The following FCS Education promotional video link shares what FCS Education involves today and impact that those in the field can make. In addition, a flyer is provided that describes how the field fits personal and professional needs.
  - [FCS Education Promotional Video](#)
  - [FCS Ed: A Career for You! \(Flyer\)](#)
- Contact the following universities to find out how you can earn a teaching degree in FACS Education in Kansas.
  - [Pittsburg State University](#) – Holly Viets (Teacher Educator)
  - [Kansas State University](#) – Janine Duncan (Teacher Educator)

### Q4. What is the Career Cluster and Family and Consumer Sciences Connection?

#### Answer:

Kansas career and technical education (CTE) has adopted the career cluster model ([CTE: Learning that works for America](#)). Kansas CTE is focused on building a skill set of employable skills in the CTE students enrolled. Family and Consumer Sciences Education is leading the Human Services, Education and Training and Hospitality and Tourism career clusters. In addition, Family and Consumer Sciences courses can be found in eight other career clusters, in a total of twelve pathways. The course, Intro. to Family and Consumer Sciences, allows students to learn about all the pathways connected to FCS and as well as provides an introduction to the unique field of FCS. To review course competencies and pathway design sheets

### Q5. Where are the Professional and Support Organizations for Family and Consumer Sciences Education?

#### Answer:

[American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences](#)  
[Association for Career and Technical Education](#)  
[Family and Consumer Sciences Education Association](#)  
[Family, Career and Community Leaders of America](#)  
[Kansas Association of Family and Consumer Sciences \(KAFCS\)](#)  
[Kansas Association of Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences](#)  
[Kansas Family, Career and Community Leaders of America](#)  
[National Association of Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences](#)