About the program
Faculty and students focus on diverse methodological and theoretical approaches to understand human relations in interpersonal, family, and health contexts. Specific specializations include the negotiation and relational problematics and relational dialectics, discourse in and about family relationships and family forms, communication and narrative sense-making, communication surrounding relational and social identity, and communicative processes and outcomes associated with mental and physical health. For more information please visit comm.unl.edu/

Why UNL?
* Student-faculty collaborations on research, publication, and independent scholarship
* Study with nationally-renown and award-winning faculty (see p. 2)
* Opportunities to work in faculty labs, research groups, and interdisciplinary initiatives (see p. 2)
* Opportunities for teaching experience
* Competitive graduate assistantships, travel funds, tuition waivers, and health insurance
* Strong professional development programs
* Openings for graduate assistant coaches for our nationally recognized speech & debate team
**IFH Faculty**

**Dawn O. Braithwaite**  
Ph.D. Willa Cather Professor  
discourses of family change * dialectics of relating * family rituals * stepfamilies * fictive kin * qualitative methods

**Jody Koenig Kellas**  
Ph.D. Willa Cather Professor & Chair  
narrative* storytelling * communicated sense-making * translational scholarship * family * health and well-being

**Angela Palmer-Wackerly, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
health equity * community engagement * qualitative/mixed methods * environmental health * rural health

**Jody Koenig Kellas**  
Ph.D. Willa Cather Professor & Chair  
narrative* storytelling * communicated sense-making * translational scholarship * family * health and well-being

**Kathy Castle, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor of Practice, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Assistant Chair

**Julia Torquati, Ph.D.**  
Professor & Interim Chair  
Child, Youth and Family Studies (Courtesy Faculty)

**Jordan Soliz, Ph.D.**  
Professor & Leland J. & Dorothy H. Olson Chair in Arts and Sciences  
multiethnic-racial families * social identity * interfaith families * intergroup dialogue * grandparent-grandchild relationships

**Virginia Chaidez**  
Ph.D. Assistant Professor Nutrition and Health Sciences (Courtesy Faculty)

**Research Labs & Collaboration**

**Narrative Nebraska** (Jody Koenig Kellas) investigates the links between storytelling and health and implement interdisciplinary, narrative-based interventions to improve caregiving, communication, and psychosocial well-being for families and care providers.

**Health Communication & Community Lab** (Angela Palmer-Wackerly) explores communication about health and identity as it relates to the well-being of patients, supportive others, and health care providers.

**Communication & Identity** (Jordan Soliz) examines identity and difference in personal relationships, families, and communities with the goal of understanding how communication facilitates relational and community solidarity, development of worldviews and social attitudes, and individual well-being.

**Discourse Dependent Family Lab** (Dawn O. Braithwaite and scholars at UNL, ASU and other programs) studying discourses of family development and change, focusing on turning points, resilience, and forgiveness in positive stepfamilies and navigating fictive (voluntary) family relationships.

**Family Discourses and Processes** (Braithwaite) Research teams and collaborations in communication and positive stepfamily turning points and relational trajectories, voluntary (fictive) kin, and kinkeeping interactions.

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**Review of Applications for Fall 2021 begin on January 15, 2022**  
To apply go to [www.comm.unl.edu/graduate](http://www.comm.unl.edu/graduate)

For more information contact Casey R. Kelly, Director of Graduate Studies  
ckelly11@unl.edu