Graduate Program in Interpersonal, Family, and Health Communication (IFH)
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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 Graduate Faculty

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

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

Angela Palmer-Wackerly, Ph.D. Assistant Professor
health equity * community engagement * qualitative/mixed methods * illness identity * supportive communication

Jordan Soliz, Ph.D. Professor
multiethnic-racial families * social identity * interfaith families * intergroup dialogue * grandparent-grandchild relationships

Allison Bonander, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Practice & Associate Director of Forensics

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)

Research Labs & Collaboration

Narrative Nebraska (Jody Koenig Kellas) Research in the Narrative Nebraska lab seeks to investigate 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 and Community Lab (Angela Palmer-Wackerly) Research in the Health Communication Lab explores communication about health and identity as it relates to the well-being of patients, supportive others, and health care providers.

Communication and Identity (Jordan Soliz) Projects in the Communication and Identity Lab examine 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. Presently focusing on turning points, resilience, and forgiveness in positive stepfamilies and navigating fictive (voluntary) family relationships.

Review of Applications for Fall 2020 begin on January 15, 2020
To apply go to www.comm.unl.edu/graduate

For more information contact Casey R. Kelly, Director of Graduate Studies ckelley11@unl.edu