

GRADUATE HANDBOOK: Online Master's Degree in Family and Human Development

GUIDE TO GRADUATE PROGRAM PROCEDURES

T. DENNY SANFORD SCHOOL
OF SOCIAL AND FAMILY DYNAMICS
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
PO BOX 873701
TEMPE, ARIZONA 85287-3701
(480) 965-6978

FAX: (480) 965-6779 Email: email@thesanfordschool.org

School Homepage: http://thesanfordschool.clas.asu.edu/

Graduate Education Homepage: http://graduate.asu.edu

ASU Graduate Policies and Procedures: http://graduate.asu.edu/faculty_staff/policies

Graduate Education Catalog On-Line: http://www.asu.edu/aad/catalogs/graduate/

Graduate School On-Line Application:

http://asu.edu/gradapp

NOTE: APPLICANTS FOR ADMISSION SHOULD COMPLETE THE ONLINE APPLICATION VIA GRADUATE EDUCATION AFTER READING THROUGH THE ENTIRE HANDBOOK

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Family and Human Development: Online Master of Science (MS) Forging New Expertise for Today's Families in a Complex World

INTRODUCTION

One important role of adults interested in helping children, youth, and families is helping them to succeed in their relationships and to achieve positive outcomes working and living within their communities. Understanding these relationship and developmental dynamics, how to effectively evaluate and consume research, and how to translate research and best practices to assist children, youth, and families offer our students important and exciting career skills and opportunities.

The T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics (The Sanford School) at Arizona State University offers an **expedited 30-credit hour online Master of Science degree in Family and Human Development** (FHD) that prepares social and behavioral sciences professionals to work with children, youth, adults and families in community settings. **In as little as 15-18 months**, students can obtain their Master's degree. This **non-thesis degree** program focuses on practical application. Students in this degree program will gain the knowledge and skills to create, facilitate, and evaluate research and programs that promote healthy individual and family development. The program is designed for students who want an applied practitioner-oriented approach to understanding the issues and needs of children, youth, and families in the 21st century. Experienced faculty who are trained in the area and have considerable expertise in delivering high-quality online education teach the courses and help direct your capstone project. You can enroll any time over the course of the year and no GREs are required for admission.

The Online Terminal Master's (MS) program in FHD is designed to provide practitioner-oriented professionals with advanced training in applying scientific methods to investigate the development and well-being of family systems and individual family members, and to apply these principles in their work with families, youth, and children. The skills and knowledge acquired during the course of training should enable each student to develop professional competencies that can be applied to significant problems and issues affecting families. The online format provides easy access to rigorous and valuable information that inform best practices in improving the lives of families and family members. The 18-month accelerated non-thesis program includes a culminating experience that allows students to focus their training in their areas of interest and work.

This Graduate Handbook supplements the Graduate Catalog and the Graduate Education Policies (http://graduate.asu.edu/faculty_staff/policies) distributed by ASU Graduate Education. Graduate students should be familiar with and observe all requirements and procedures as defined in those publications.

Family and Human Development: Online Master of Science (MS) Forging New Expertise for Today's Families in a Complex World

PROGRAM OF STUDY

1. Core Requirements		Credit Hours
CDE 531	Theoretical Issues in Child Development	3
FAS 598	Cultural Diversity and the Family	3
FAS 500	Research Methods	3
CDE 501	Social Science Statistics	3
2. Structured Topic Co	<u>Durses</u>	9
	ence Requirements (see below for more details) the following culminating experience requirements:	
FAS 586, 587, 588	Capstone Project I, II, III	9
	Total Credits	30

A. Culminating Experience

1. Overview.

The Online Master's degree in FHD has a non-thesis culminating experience as its capstone. This applied culminating experience consists of a 3-part Capstone Project. Each part of the Capstone experience will be customized to fit the individual student's professional and academic needs and interests. The culminating experience is limited only by the student's creativity and motivation, with possible experiences being as varied as the student's interests and individual circumstances. Ultimately, this culminating experience will provide students with a deeper understanding of family and human development, as well as professional competencies and insights.

2. Capstone Project Part I: Professional Development (FAS 586; 3 credits)

Capstone Project I allows students to explore and begin to specify their professional goals and means of obtaining those goals. This process of professional exploration and goal specification will help ensure that, together, the student and capstone instructor can craft personalized capstone projects and experiences that maximize the student's potential of obtaining his/her goals.

3. Capstone Project Part II: Exploration/Specialization (FAS 587; 3 credits).

Capstone Project II allows students to delve into their area(s) of interest, developing a greater depth and understanding of topics that influence children, youth, and families, and that further the student's academic and professional goals. Students develop and enhance their writing, research, and presentation skills through various assignments.

4. Capstone Project Part III: Application (FAS 588; 3 credits).

Capstone Project III is the point at which students have the opportunity to apply what they have learned through their previous coursework. Once again, the emphasis is on a personalized and useful experience for the students. In consultation with the Fieldwork Coordinator, the student will fashion a field experience plan that allows the student to gain real-world experience related to family and human development. Activities that fulfill the field experience requirement are vast and varied, often limited only by a student's creativity. A key aspect of Capstone III is the course project. Students will be required to complete **one** of the following activities (in addition to other coursework and assignments):

a. **40 hours of field experience.** Field experience hours can be obtained by working with a single agency, organization, or project, or hours can be derived from a variety of agencies, organizations, or projects. Examples of "field experience" may include volunteering with child/youth/family related organizations, or completing advocacy/policy work.

or

b. **In-depth investigative paper (40 page minimum).** Students will expand their investigation of their Capstone II topic and create a more in-depth written report that informs the reader of the current state of research, future research directions, and/or identify problems and solutions related to children, youth, and families. With approval of the mentor, this paper can address various audiences and take on various forms, such a research paper, white paper, or a proposal for a non-profit entrepreneurial venture that fills a particular child/youth/family related need.

B. Admission Procedures for the Online FHD Master's Program

Admission to Online MS in Family and Human Development requires the submission of all application materials cited in the *Graduate Catalog* and the program in Family and Human Development. Applicants are expected to meet GPA requirements established by Graduate Education.

1. Program Requirements.

In addition to the application form and materials required by Graduate Education, including official transcripts and official TOEFL test results for international applicants - please see https://students.asu.edu/graduate/proficiency), the following information must be submitted for the supplemental application to the Master's program in Family and Human Development. All materials must be submitted on-line via Graduate Education. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis for entry Fall, Spring, or Summer of the academic year.

Requirements for the Supplemental Application to the Master's program in Family and Human Development:

- a. Two letters of recommendation. These letters should be from people who know you as a student or in a professional capacity. Letters from family members or friends do not meet this criterion.
- b. A resume that summarizes the academic and employment experiences of the applicant, as well as applicable community involvement.

- c. A 4-5 page, double-spaced personal statement addressing the following:
 - State your professional goals, interests, and reasons for desiring to enroll in this program,
 - Describe your strengths that will help you succeed in the program and in reaching your professional goals,
 - o Describe the significant responsibilities you have held,
 - Include any additional information that you feel will help the committee evaluate your application.

2. Processing of Applications.

Credentials submitted by the applicant are evaluated by Graduate Education and by the Online FHD Graduate Committee.

3. Admission and Denial Criteria.

Based on the recommendation of the Online Graduate Committee, applicants will be admitted by the School Director. Recommendation for admission or denial will be forwarded to the Dean of Graduate Education. Criteria for admission will include:

- a. Evidence of outstanding potential from previous academic record, and previous experience as addressed in the applicant's personal statement;
- b. Professional goals that are compatible with the Online Master's program;
- c. The decision of the committee will be one of the following:
 - Regular admission is granted when the applicant meets the criteria of adequate area preparation, satisfactory grade point average, favorable letters of recommendation, completed Supplementary Information Form and Personal Statement, and when enrollment limits have not been met.
 - Provisional admission is granted either when the applicant has less than a satisfactory academic record but shows potential for high achievement as a graduate student as evidenced by high GPA and/or strong letters of recommendation, or the applicant meets the criteria for regular admission but has had insufficient preparation for the designated area for the graduate study. In such cases, the conditions for admission are stated on the letter of acceptance. The student must meet these stated conditions prior to advancement to regular status. The student is responsible for initiating a change in graduate classification after the conditions of provisional admission have been fulfilled. If the conditions for admission are not met within two semesters of the student's admission, the student will be asked to leave the program. Students who are dropped from the program may reapply for admittance when they can present evidence that the conditions have been met. Presentation of such evidence does not guarantee readmittance.
 - Admission is denied when either the student does not meet the requirements necessary for admission, the student does not rank sufficiently high to be selected for available slots, or it is deemed that graduate program does not match an

applicant's needs, goals, and interests.

C. Plan of Study

1. Approval of Plan of Study.

A Master's plan of study should be carefully worked out with the Director of Online Graduate Studies so that it meets the requirements set forth in this document. The Plan of Study should be completed and approved by the student by the semester in which students earn 50% of the required hours for degree completion. The plan of study is then submitted to Director of Online Graduate Studies in The Sanford School for approval and to Graduate Education for final approval.

2. Changes in Plan of Study.

Necessary changes can be initiated and petitioned by the student. The changes must be preapproved by the Director of Online Graduate Studies and Graduate Education.

3. Performance Reviews.

Master's students are required to maintain a minimum of 3.0 GPA in graduate school in all work taken for graduate credit (courses numbered 500 or higher) and in all coursework in the student's approved plan of study. If either the cumulative GPA or the plan of study GPA falls below 3.0, the student will be placed on academic probation and receive a deficiency notice from the Online Graduate Committee. The student will be required to raise the cumulative GPA and the plan of study GPA to a minimum of a 3.0 within one semester. If the student fails to raise the cumulative GPA and the plan of study GPA to a minimum of a 3.0 within the allotted time, the student will receive a letter from the Online Graduate Committee notifying him/her that he/she will be recommended for withdrawal from the Program. A student may appeal actions concerning dismissal by petitioning the Program.

In addition, a student cannot accumulate more than 2 incompletes at any given time while completing a graduate plan of study. If a student accumulates 3 or more incompletes at any given time, the student will be placed on academic probation and receive a deficiency notice from the Online Graduate Committee. The student will be required to complete all incompletes by the beginning of the following academic year. If the student fails to complete all incompletes within the allotted time, the student will receive a letter from the Online Graduate Committee notifying him/her that he/she will be recommended for withdrawal from the Program. A student may appeal actions concerning dismissal by petitioning the Program.

If a student has been absent from the program for 7 or more years and wants to return to complete the Master's program, he/she needs to become current and meet current standards of knowledge in the discipline based on their previous progress in the Master's program. If the student enrolled for continuing registration credits but did not enroll in or complete any coursework, in order to become current, the student needs to satisfy certain requirements. If the student did not enroll in any courses or in continuing registration units, he/she would need to re-apply for the program and be readmitted. In that case, the Online Graduate Committee would recommend the appropriate plan of study for the student.

4. Non-Registration.

According to Graduate Education policy, admitted graduate students are required to be registered for a minimum of one credit hour during all phases of their graduate education. Registration for every fall semester and spring semester is required.

Graduate students planning to discontinue registration for a semester or more must submit a *Request to Maintain Continuous Enrollment* form. This request must be submitted and approved <u>before</u> the anticipated semester of non-registration. Students may request to maintain continuous enrollment without course registration for a maximum of two semesters during their entire program. Students who do not register for a fall or spring semester without an approved Request are considered withdrawn from the university under the assumption that they have decided to discontinue their program. Students removed for this reason may reapply for admission to resume their degree program; the application will be considered along with all other new applications to the degree program.

Students should refer to the official ASU Graduate Policies and Procedures document (http://graduate.asu.edu/faculty_staff/policies) for details.

D. Expectations

1. Timelines.

- a. Deadlines. In accordance with Graduate Education policy, students must successfully complete all requirements for the Master's degree within 6 years of admission to the Master's program. The Director of Online Graduate Studies, the head of the academic unit, and the dean of Graduate Education must approve exceptions. The Online Graduate Committee in Family and Human Development will recommend students who do not successfully complete all of the requirements of the Master's program within these timelines for withdrawal from the Master's program. A student may appeal actions concerning dismissal by petitioning the Director of the T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics within 10 business days of receiving the withdrawal notice from the Online Graduate Committee. In this circumstance, the Doctoral Graduate Committee in FHD will review student appeals. Students should refer to the official ASU Graduate Policies and Procedures document (http://graduate.asu.edu/faculty_staff/policies) for details.
- b. *Dates*. The university calendar found in the current *Graduate Catalog* lists important dates and deadlines, including the deadline for *applying for graduation*. Check these and other dates carefully. These dates can also be found on the Graduate Education web page.

2. Maintaining Satisfactory Progress.

Graduate students are required to maintain a minimum of 3.0 GPA in (a) in all coursework taken for graduate credit (courses numbered 500 or higher; Graduate GPA), (b) all coursework in the student's approved plan of study (including those 400 level courses that are taken for graduate credit; Plan of Study GPA), and (c) all coursework taken at ASU post baccalaureate (Overall GPA).

a. If a student's Graduate GPA, the Plan of Study GPA, or the Overall GPA falls below 3.0, the student will be placed on academic probation and receive a deficiency notice from the Online Graduate Committee in Family and Human Development.

- b. The student will be required to raise the Graduate GPA, the Plan of Study GPA, and the Overall GPA to a minimum of a 3.0 within 9 credit hours or two semesters, whichever comes first. Any coursework that earns either a Z or a Y grade cannot be counted to raise the GPA.
- c. If the student fails to raise the Graduate GPA, the Plan of Study GPA, and the Overall GPA to a minimum of a 3.0 within the allotted time (as defined in b above), the student will receive a letter from the Online Graduate Committee notifying him/her that he/she will be recommended for withdrawal from the Program.
- d. A student may appeal actions concerning dismissal by petitioning the Director of the T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics within 10 business days of receiving the withdrawal notice from the Online Graduate Committee. In this circumstance, the Doctoral Graduate Committee in FHD will review student appeals.

3. Incomplete Grades.

A student cannot accumulate more than 2 incompletes at any given time while completing a graduate plan of study.

- a. If a student accumulates 2 or more incompletes at any given time, the student will be placed on academic probation and receive a deficiency notice from the Online Graduate Committee in Family and Human Development.
- b. The student will be required to complete all incompletes within one semester. Any appeals to modify the length of time to complete the incompletes must be submitted in writing to the Online FHD Graduate Committee. Appeals must be approved, in writing, by the instructing faculty member who assigned the incomplete grade before the appeal will be considered by the Online Graduate Committee.
- c. If the student fails to complete all incompletes within the required timeframe, the student will receive a letter from the Online Graduate Committee notifying him/her that he/she will be recommended for withdrawal from the Program.
- d. A student may appeal actions concerning dismissal by petitioning the Director of the T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics within 10 business days of receiving the withdrawal notice from the Online Graduate Committee. In this circumstance, the Doctoral Graduate Committee in FHD will review student appeals.

4. Professional Conduct.

All graduate students admitted to a Master's program are subject to the general standards of academic good standing of the university. However, academic standards do not necessarily guarantee that a student will graduate from the program. Because students obtaining a Master's degree from the program are often placed in positions of dealing with the public, they must also demonstrate the requisite qualifications for successful professional performance, including sound mental health, interpersonal skills, basic communication skills, appropriate professional conduct, and satisfactory performance in field experiences.

- a. The Online Graduate Committee in FHD will review graduate students who demonstrate behaviors or characteristics that make it questionable that they can succeed in the profession.
- b. The committee's review may result in a decision to disqualify the student or the specification of conditions under which continued participation is permitted (e.g. probation).
- c. Students who wish to appeal the decision of the Online Graduate Committee may do so in writing to the Director of the T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics. In this circumstance, the Doctoral Graduate Committee in FHD will review student appeals.

5. Registration Requirements.

All graduate students enrolled in the Online Master's program must be registered for a minimum of one hour of appropriate graduate level credit in the department/school in which they are pursuing their degree program. According to Graduate Education Policy, admitted graduate students are required to be registered for a minimum of one credit hour during all phases of their graduate education. Registration for every fall semester and spring semester is required.

Graduate students planning to discontinue registration for a semester or more must submit a *Request to Maintain Continuous Enrollment* form. This request must be submitted and approved <u>before</u> the anticipated semester of non-registration. Students may request to maintain continuous enrollment without course registration for a maximum of two semesters during their entire program. Students who do not register for a fall or spring semester without an approved Request are considered withdrawn from the university under the assumption that they have decided to discontinue their program. Students removed for this reason may reapply for admission to resume their degree program; the application will be considered along with all other new applications to the degree program. Students should refer to the official ASU Graduate Policies and Procedures document (http://graduate.asu.edu/faculty_staff/policies) for details.

E. Financial Aid

There are various sources of financial aid through the University. Students should contact ASU's student financial aid office for specific information. A limited number of paid student-hourly Teaching Assistant/Grader positions are available as part of The Sanford School's Online Program. Students interested in these positions should contact Dr. Amy Reesing (amy.reesing@asu.edu). The Sanford School also has a limited number of scholarships available. The number of positions and scholarships vary from year to year depending upon the number of current and entering graduate students who are eligible for support, and the financial support available to the school.

APPENDIX A: Sample Plan of Coursework for Student Beginning Program in Fall A

Year in Program	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Summer Semester
Year 1	Session A CDE 531 – Theoretical Issues in Child Development (3 hours)	Session A Structured Topic Course* (e.g., Marriage and Family Relationships; 3 hours) FAS 586; Capstone 1 (3 hours)	Session A Structured Topic Course* (e.g., Parenting; 3 hours) FAS 587; Capstone 2 (3 hours)
	Session B FAS 500 (3 hours) – Graduate Research Methods	Session B CDE 501 – Social Science Statistics (3 hours)	Session B CDE 598 – Diversity (3 hours)
Year 2	Session A Structured Topic Course* (e.g., Applied Child Development; 3 hours) Session B FAS 588; Capstone 3 (3 hours)		

^{*} Structured Topic Course: Specific course topic offered may vary.

APPENDIX B: Capstone Project Part III Proposal Form

Name (First and Last):	10-Digit ASU Student ID:
When will you complete capstone 3 (semes • Capstone 3 is offered in: Fall B, Sprin	

• Capstone 3 must be taken after you have completed all other course work.

If you will be completing the Written Project, please answer the following 5 questions [if you will be completing fieldwork, you can ignore/remove the following 5 questions]:

- 1. What is your selected topic?
- 2. Why is this topic important in today's society?
- 3. What kind of paper do you plan on writing? Although most students will complete a research paper, alternative paper formats that are based on academic research will be considered (although they must also be approved by the director and your faculty mentor).
- 4. Who has agreed to be your faculty mentor (provide name and e-mail address)?
- 5. Additional information you would like to share:

If choosing 40 hours of field experience, please describe, in detail, how you plan on completing these 40 hours by providing the following information:

- 1. Where and with whom do you plan on working?
 - a. Agency Name:
 - b. Agency Address:
 - c. Agency Website:
 - d. Agency Phone Number:
 - e. Point of Contact:
 - f. Point of Contact Phone
 - g. Point of Contact E-mail
- 2. What are your reasons for choosing to work with the agency/organization (or agencies/organizations)?
- 3. How many hours you plan to complete with each agency/organization?
- 4. Approximately how many hours per week will you work? Note that students cannot complete more than 10 hours per week.
- 5. Please fill out the table below based on your goals and conversations you have with your Capstone 3 agency representative. The table includes 3 *sample* rows to show you how to use the table you will replace this content with your own information and use as many rows as needed to adequately describe your capstone 3 fieldwork plans. If you are completing hours at multiple agencies, please indicate the agency where you will complete each task in the "specific tasks" column.

As a reminder, you may choose from the following Domains:

I. Education	100%	VII. Non-profit management	100%
II. Administration	50%	VIII. Grant work	50%
III. Program Development	100%	IX. Consultation	50%
IV. Program Evaluation	100%	X. Outreach	50%
V. Organizational Development	100%	XI. Other (define for approval)	Variable
VI. Clerical	25%		

Objectives	Domain	Specific tasks
Participate in program evaluation in our school district.	IV. Program evaluation	Gather demographic data at our school on current students (Agency A) Organize focus groups (Agency A)
Work in the classroom at Head Start	I. Education	Help ESL students with language acquisition (Agency B) Assist head teacher with teaching tasks (Agency A)
Organize and outreach for parenting classes at the Head Start	X. Outreach	Create outreach materials Talk with parents after school Etc.

- 6. What you hope to gain from these experiences?
- 7. Do you envision any barriers to meeting your goals and/or completing your fieldwork experience?
- 8. Additional information you would like to share:

Signature of Student:	Date:	
Signature of Capstone Instructor:	Date:	

APPENDIX C: Field Experience Guidelines

Students who plan to arrange a field experience must follow these guidelines. Students are required to spend 40 hours engaged in approved field experience activities.

After approval of your Capstone Project III Proposal, students should contact the appropriate person

(people) and/or community organization(s) to arrange an initial interview to discuss your field experience. You should be prepared to discuss your goals and the kinds of duties and activities that will contribute toward realizing these goals. If it seems likely that the placement will meet your educational goals, you and your supervisor should determine your field experience hours and responsibilities. Complete the **Field Experience Agreement Form** with your supervisor for each agency/organization. This form must also be approved and signed by the Fieldwork Coordinator. Students should begin their field experience by the end of the first week of classes. Students are required to meet with his/her placement supervisor at least two times during the session.

Journal

Students are required to keep a journal in which they reflect on, evaluate and record their field experience experiences. The journal is intended to serve as a tool to help students develop their capacity for reflective practice. The field experience requirement is based on the premise that learning occurs through direct practice with children and families. Students are expected to record significant experiences, including emotions, attitudes, opinions and insights, and to record reflections on what they have learned as a result of these experiences. Journal entries should focus on: a) what the student learns about him/her self during episodes with children, parents, families, clients, co-workers, and supervisors; b) what the student learns about the children and families with whom he/she is working (if applicable); c) what the student learns and about the nature and process of change (developmental and therapeutic); and d) what the student learns about the organization for which he/she worked and the efficacy of the services provided by that organization. Journals are submitted weekly.

APPENDIX D: Online Master's Field Experience Agreement Form

Student's Name	ASU ID
Student's Address	

Email		Phone	_
Agency/Office of Field Exper	ience		
Agency Supervisor of Studen	t		
Agency Address			
Agency Phone			
Date on which field experience ends:	e begins:	; and	
Field Experience Hours:			
Monday between	and		
Tuesday between	and		
Wednesday between	and		
Thursday between	and		
Friday between	_ and		
Saturday between	and		
Sunday between	and		
For a total of	hours.		
Field Experience Description: out by agency supervisor.)	(describe specific	c tasks, duties and responsibilities of intern. To	be filled
Signature of Student		Date	
Signature of Agency Supervis	or	Date	
APPEN	DIX E: Field Exp	perience Supervisor Evaluation Form	
Student:			
Date Completed			

Name of Supervisor:
Placement Organization:
Organization Address:
Supervisor's Email address:
Supervisor's Daytime Telephone (including area code):
Supervisor's Professional Discipline/Education:
Signature of Agency Supervisor Date

The rating scale is:

0 – No Opportunity to Observe

1 – Minimal Ability

- 2 Moderate Ability
 3 Above Average Ability
 4 Excellent Ability

1. Was professional and respectful.	Comments/examples:
0 1 2 3 4 NA	
2. Attendance was consistent.	Comments/examples:
	.
0 1 2 3 4 NA	
3. Was curious, involved, and motivated.	Comments/examples:
0 1 2 3 4 NA	
0 1 2 3 4 NA	
4. Was able to develop professional working	Comments/examples:
relationships with co-workers and clients.	
0 1 2 3 4 NA	
5. Demonstrated the capacity to work as a	Comments/examples:
partner/team member with program and agency representatives.	
•	
0 1 2 3 4 NA	
6. Demonstrated the ability to understand and	Comments/examples:
respect ethnicity, culture, individuality, and	
diversity.	
0 1 2 3 4 NA	
0 1 2 3 4 101	
7. Demonstrated the ability to seek out and use	Comments/examples:
consultation.	
0 1 2 3 4 NA	
8. Demonstrates knowledge and understanding of	Comments/examples:
child and family dynamics.	
0 1 2 3 4 NA	
9. Demonstrated the ability to communicate	Comments/examples:
clearly, honestly, sensitively, and diplomatically.	•
0 1 2 3 4 NA	
0 1 2 3 4 NA	

10. Demonstrate sensitivity, empathy, and willingness to understand others.	Comments/examples:
0 1 2 3 4 NA	