Human Development and Family Science
University of Missouri

Degree Requirements for:

**CHILD LIFE SPECIALIST**

### General Education

*English: 9-10 hours*
- ENGLISH 1000: Exposition and Argumentation
  - Two Writing Intensive courses: One must be in the major.
  - Prerequisite: ENGLSH 1000
- HDFS 2400W Principles of Human Development (4) WI-I
- HDFS 3150W Child Development 4-8 (3) WI-2

*Mathematics: 6 hours*
- MATH 1100: College Algebra
  - Prerequisite: MATH 1100 with a grade in the C range.
  - MRP

American History or Government: 3 hours
- HIST 1100, 1200, 1400, 2210, 2440, 4000, 4220, 4230,
  - or POL SC 1100, 1700, 2100

**Distribution of Content: 27 hours**

- Courses approved for the Distribution of Content may be found at: http://generaleducation.missouri.edu/requirements/

- Choose at least one course numbered 2000 or higher in two different areas of the distribution.
- HES Foundation may not ‘double dip’ for both Gen Ed and HES Foundation credit.

**Biological, Mathematical and Physical Sciences: 9 hours**

At least one Biological or Physical Science and its related laboratory.

- ESC PS 4170 recommended (3)
- PTH AS 2201 recommended (3)
- PTH AS 2203 recommended (2)

**Social and Behavioral Sciences: 9 hours**

At least two different departments must be represented. American History or Government course may ‘double count’ here.

- American History or Government (3)
- PSYCH 1000 recommended (3)
- SOCIOL or RU SOC 1000 recommended (3)

**Humanities and Fine Arts: 9 hours**

At least one course from two different departments must be represented.

- Foreign language is an exception. A minimum of 12-13 hours of the same foreign language must be taken for the Humanities requirement.
- PHIL 2440 Medical Ethics recommended (3)

*Capstone Experience*

Completed during last two semesters of coursework.
- HDFS 4993 Internship in HDFS-Clinical Practice (15)

**HES College**

**Foundation Courses: 7 hours**

- GN HES 1100 Intro to Human Environmental Sciences (1)

At least one course from two different departments must be represented.

- FINPLN 2183 Personal and Family Finance (MRP) (3), or
- FINPLN 4380 Assessing the American Dream (WI) (3)
- NEP 1034 Nutr Current Concepts and Controversies (3), or
- NEP 2222 Landscape of Obesity (3)

**Communication: 3 hours**

- Choose from COMMUN 1200, 3571, 3575
  (COMMUN 1200 can double count as a Humanities credit)
  (COMMUN 3571 may double count as an upper-level Beh Sci)

* Courses in these categories must be completed with a grade of C- or better.

Effective Fall 2017
Degree Program Requirements include General Education courses; HES College requirements; and Professional Program courses. Students must have a 2.50 MU Cum GPA on or before 60 hours are completed to be admitted to the HDFS professional program. Please note that acceptance into this option is on a competitive, space available basis. HDFS 1600 must be taken before HDFS 2300 or any 3000 or 4000-level HDFS course. PHIL 2440, PSYCH 1000, PTH AS 2201, PTH AS 2203, SOC 1000 AND STAT are degree requirements and should be taken to meet their respective Distribution of Content Areas. Admission to the professional practice phase of the child life curriculum (beginning with HDFS 4130 during the junior year) is based upon a competitive application and interview process. Students must have attained a 3.2 cumulative GPA, completed HDFS 4085 and HDFS 3500, and be enrolled in (or have also completed) HDFS 3700 at the time of application. Students are admitted to HDFS 4993 after successful completion of HDFS 4130 (grade of 3.0 or higher) and all other coursework. Students must be selected by approved child life clinical internship programs through a student-initiated, competitive application process.

This academic emphasis requires that students successfully complete child life volunteer, practicum, and clinical internship experiences to attain this degree, as well as be eligible to take the Child Life Professional Certification Examination to obtain the CCLS credential. Clinical education sites require that students provide proof of health insurance, up-to-date immunizations, and student professional liability insurance. Students must also pass mandatory drug screens, criminal background checks, and any other required qualification checks prior to beginning any clinical education experience in child life.

Failure to provide appropriate documentation, or pass drug screens and criminal background checks prior to the beginning of these experiences may result in dismissal from the child life degree program in HDFS. The student is responsible for all costs incurred with these qualification checks.

Required Courses: (91 hours)

- CDS 2190 Medical Terminology (online course) (3)
- HDFS 1600 Foundations of Family Science (3)
- HDFS 2200 Research Methods in Human Dev & Family Sci (3)
- HDFS 2300 Multicultural Study of Children and Families (3)
- HDFS 2400W Principles of Human Development (4)
- HDFS 3050 Child Development: Birth to 3 (3)
- HDFS 3150W Child Development 4-8 (3)
- HDFS 3430 Adolescence and Young Adulthood (3)
- HDFS 3500 Infant-Toddler Practicum (6)
- HDFS 3600 Partnering with Parents and Families (3)
- HDFS 3700 Preschool Practicum (6)
- HDFS 3800 Children’s Play (3)
- HDFS 4085 Problems in HDFS – Child Life Volunteer Exp. (1)
- HDFS 4100 Children in Healthcare Settings (3)
- HDFS 4110 Child Life Theory and Practice (3)
- HDFS 4130 Child Life Practicum (3)
- HDFS 4400 Childhood Death and Bereavement (3)
- HDFS 4700 Children and Families in Poverty (3) or 3HDFS 4720 Child and Family Advocacy (3)
- HDFS 4993 Internship in HDFS - Clinical Practice Internship (480 clock hours, min.) (15)

**P**TH AS 2201 Human Anatomy Lecture

**P**TH AS 2203 Human Anatomy Lab

**PHIL 2440 Medical Ethics

**PSYCH 1000 Introduction to Psychology

**SOCIOL 1000 (or RU SOC 1000) Intro to Sociology

**STAT 1200 Introductory Statistical Reasoning, or 1300 Elementary Statistics or 1400 Statistical Analysis, or ESC PS 4170 Introduction to Applied Statistics

Supporting Coursework (3-6 hours)

Choose 1-2 courses from among the following:

- HDFS 2450 Human Sexuality Across the Lifespan (3)
- HDFS 2510 Observation, Assess., and Curriculum Planning (4)
- HDFS 3450 Health, Safety and Nutrition (3)
- HDFS 4200 Latino Youth and Families (3)
- HDFS 4300 Black Families (3)
- HDFS 4420 Environmental Influences on Lifespan Cognition (3)
- HDFS 4570 Dev & Admin of Child Services Programs (3)
- HDFS 4610 Stress and Resilience in Families (3)
- HDFS 4620 Family Interaction (3)
- HDFS 4680 Family Communication (3)
- HLTH PSYC 3100 Applied Behavior Analysis and Autism (3)
- NEP 2460 Eating Disorders (2)
- PSYCH 2830 Human-Companion Animal Interaction
- PSYCH 3830 Health Psychology (3)
- PSYCH 4540 Emotional Disorders in Child and Adol. (3)

**SPEC ED 4300 Introduction to Special Education (3)

**SOC WK 4390 Helping Strategies with Children and Adol. (3)

Other supporting coursework must be approved by the advisor prior to enrollment.

Minimum of 120 credit hours must be completed

1 must earn a 2.00 (C) or better in the course

2 must earn a 3.00 (B) or better in the course

3 HDFS 4085 must be completed no later than the end of the Sophomore year

4 Should be taken before HDFS 2200

* Service Learning course

** Credit hours calculated in General Education
# Child Life Specialist
## Sample Course Guide

### Recommended Course Sequence

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<thead>
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<th>Fall I</th>
<th>Spring I</th>
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<tr>
<td>ENG 1000 Exposition and Argumentation</td>
<td>BIO SC 1010 Gen Principles &amp; Concepts of Bio</td>
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<td>GN HES 1100 Intro to Human Envr Sciences</td>
<td>HDFS 2300 Multicultural Study Children/Family</td>
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<td>HDFS 1600 Foundations of Family Science</td>
<td>HDFS 2400W Principles of Human Development</td>
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<td>Humanities</td>
<td>MATH 1100 College Algebra</td>
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<td>COMMUN 1200 Intro to Speech Communication</td>
<td>HDFS 2200 Research Methods in HDFS</td>
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<td>HDFS 4085 Problems-Child Life Volunteer</td>
<td>HDFS 3500 Infant-Toddler Dev &amp; Programs</td>
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<td>History or Political Science</td>
<td>PTH AS 2203 Human Anatomy Lab</td>
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<td>HDFS 3700 Child Development Laboratory</td>
<td>HDFS 3600 Working with Parents</td>
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<td>HDFS 4100 Children in Health Care Settings</td>
<td>HDFS 3430 Adolescence and Young Adulthood</td>
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<td>NEP 1034 Nutrition Concepts &amp; Current Controversies</td>
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<td>FINPLN 2183 Personal and Family Finance</td>
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