



Human Development and Family Science

University of Missouri

Degree Requirements for:

CHILD LIFE SPECIALIST

Child Life Specialist graduates provide for the socioemotional needs, and support the optimum growth and development of children and their families in a variety of health care settings through therapeutic play, psychological preparation, and coping skills interventions. Using a family-centered approach, they provide parents and other family members with emotional support.

All courses that count toward the HDFS major requirements must be completed with a grade of C or better. Grades of C- or below will not be accepted. In addition to the Mizzou General Education and HES College requirements, the following courses comprise the Child Life Specialist emphasis area. See additional requirements on the back of this sheet.

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)
- ___ ³HDFS 3600 Partnering with Parents and Families (3)
- ___ HDFS 3700 Preschool Practicum (6)
- ___ HDFS 3800 Children's Play (3)
- ___ ⁴HDFS 4085 Problems in HDFS – Child Life Volunteer Exp. (1)
- ___ HDFS 4100 Children in Healthcare Settings (3)
- ___ HDFS 4110 Child Life Theory and Practice (3)
- ___ ¹HDFS 4130 Child Life Practicum (3)
- ___ HDFS 4400 Childhood Death and Bereavement (3)
- ___ HDFS 4700 Children and Families in Poverty (3) or
HDFS 4720 Child and Family Advocacy (3)
- ___ HDFS 4993 Internship in HDFS- Clinical Practice Internship
(480 clock hours, min.) (15)
- ___ PTH AS 2201 Human Anatomy Lecture (3)
- ___ PTH AS 2203 Human Anatomy Lab (2)
- ___ PHIL 2440 Medical Ethics (3)
- ___ PSYCH 1000 Introduction to Psychology (3)
- ___ SOCIOL 1000 (or RU SOC 1000) Intro to Sociology (3)
- ___ ²STAT 1200 Introductory Statistical Reasoning, or
1400 Elementary Statistics for Life Sciences, or
ESC PS 4170 Introduction to Applied Statistics (3)

Supporting Area 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.

See page 2 for additional information.

Minimum of 120 credit hours must be completed

¹must earn a 3.00 (B) or better in the course

²Should be taken before HDFS 2200

³Service Learning course

⁴HDFS 4085 must be completed no later than the end of the Sophomore year

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 may be taken to meet their respective Distribution of Content Areas. Admission to the professional practice phase (beginning with HDFS 4130 during the junior year) is based on 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 a 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 also must 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.

Child Life Specialist

Sample Course Guide

Fall I

ENG 1000 Exposition and Argumentation	3
GN HES 1100 Intro to Human Envr Sciences	1
HDFS 1600 Foundations of Family Science	3
Humanities	3
<u>PSYCH 1000 General Psychology</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	13

Spring I

BIO SC 1010 Gen Principles & Concepts of Bio	3
HDFS 2300 Multicultural Study Children/Family	3
HDFS 2400W Principles of Human Development	4
MATH 1100 College Algebra	3
<u>SOC 1000 Introduction to Sociology</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	16

Fall II

COMMUN 1200 Intro to Speech Communication	3
HDFS 3050 Child Development Birth to 3	3
HDFS 4085 Problems-Child Life Volunteer	1
History or Political Science	3
PTH AS 2201 Human Anatomy Lecture	3
<u>Statistics</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	16

Spring II

CDS 2190 Medical Terminology	3
HDFS 2200 Research Methods in HDFS	3
HDFS 3150W Child Development 4-8	3
HDFS 3500 Infant-Toddler Practicum	6
<u>PTH AS 2203 Human Anatomy Lab</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	17

Fall III

HDFS 3700 Preschool Practicum	6
HDFS 4100 Children in Healthcare Settings	3
HES Foundation: NEP 1034 Intro to Human Nutrition, or NEP 2222 Landscape of Obesity	3
<u>HES Foundation: FINPLN 2183 Pers. & Family Finance</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	15

Spring III

HDFS 3600 Partnering with Parents and Families	3
HDFS 3430 Adolescence and Young Adulthood	3
HDFS 4110 Child Life Theory & Practice	3
HDFS 4400 Childhood Death & Bereavement	3
HDFS 4700 Children & Families in Poverty, or <u>HDFS 4720 Child & Family Advocacy</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	15

Fall IV

General Elective	1
HDFS 3800 Children's Play	3
HDFS 4130 Child Life Practicum	3
PHIL 2440 Medical Ethics	3
<u>Supporting Course</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	13

Spring IV

<u>HDFS 4993 Internship in HDFS</u>	<u>15</u>
Total	15