

CHILD LIFE, MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

Program prerequisite: prior to beginning the Advanced Standing students must complete a BA in Children’s Studies: Child Life and Health or a related field that includes all 10 academic courses required for certification eligibility through the Association of Child Life Professionals.

In the child life field, students who obtain a master’s degree are more competitive for clinical practicum, internship, and in the job market. Additionally, this program provides students with research skill sets unique to the child life field, in addition to supervisory and managerial skills for administrative level child life positions.

All graduate students in the MA in Child Life program will complete the Required Core Courses and four electives.

Track One: If a graduate student is a Certified Child Life Specialist, they will not need to complete a child life practicum or child life internship in order to graduate from the program. Students in track one will complete a total of 44–45 credit hours in order to graduate from the program.

Track Two: If a graduate student is not a Certified Child Life Specialist, they will need complete a child life practicum and child life internship in order to graduate from the program or provide documentation verifying successful completion of a previous child life practicum and/or child life internship.

*If students need affiliation for the child life practicum or child life internship, they will be required to register for CDST 595 Child Life Practicum and Internship. Students who need hospital affiliation will complete a total of 44–51 credit hours in order to graduate from the program.

*If students do not need affiliation for the child life practicum or child life internship, they will not need to register for CDST 595 Child Life Practicum and Internship. Students who do not need hospital affiliation will complete a total of 44–45 credit hours in order to graduate from the program.

Required Core Courses 25

CDST 535	FAMILY SYSTEMS IN HEALTHCARE
CDST 536	CHILD LIFE RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES
CDST 537	ADMINISTRATION IN CHILD LIFE PROGRAMS
CDST 538	CHILD LIFE GRANT WRITING
CDST 600	CHILD LIFE THESIS
	or CDST 601 CHILD LIFE RESEARCH PROJECT

Required Electives–All students are required to take four electives. 19-20 Additional electives available with prior approval from Child Life Advisor.

CDST 503	DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION IN CHILDHOOD
CDST 504	TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
CDST 515	MINDFULNESS AND ALTERNATIVE PRACTICES FOR WORKING WITH CHILDREN
CDST 525	DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN
CDST 530	PEDIATRIC MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY

CDST 531	CHILD LIFE PRACTICE ASSESSMENT AND PREPARATION	
CDST 532	SCHOOL REINTEGRATION AND SUPPORT	
CDST 533	PEDIATRIC PALLIATIVE CARE	
CDST 534	NON-TRADITIONAL CHILD LIFE	
CDST 540	INTERNATIONAL CHILD LIFE	
Required Clinical Experience—for students who need hospital affiliation for child life practicum or child life internship.		0-6
CDST 595	CHILD LIFE PRACTICUM AND INTERNSHIP	
Total Credits		44-51