



CHILD LIFE SPECIALIST

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Want more? Click below for:
[- Program Worksheet](#)

Department of Consumer & Family Sciences

Academic Complex 302

Phone: (270) 745-4352

Fax: (270) 745-3999

Email: cfs@wku.edu

Webpage: <http://www.wku.edu/childstudies>

Degree Offering: Bachelor of Science

Program Description:

Child Life Specialists (reference #563) are trained in child development and focus on the emotional and developmental needs of children and families. Graduates gain preparation for working with infants, children and adolescents in environments related to health care and hospitalization, and for providing support for the child's family.

Career Opportunities in Child Life Specialist

The Child Life Council web site states the following regarding career opportunities for a Child Life Specialist.

"Child life specialists are vital members of a multidisciplinary team in most large pediatric facilities, as well as many smaller pediatric inpatient units. They often service specialty areas like the emergency department, surgical and intensive care units, and outpatient units. Some child life specialists are also available to meet the needs of children of adult patients. Although child life has its traditional foundations in hospitals, an increasing number of child life specialists are applying their unique expertise to help children in other environments, including outpatient healthcare facilities, doctors' offices, hospice care, specialized camps, schools, court systems, and funeral homes. Whatever the location, child life interventions focus on the individual needs of the child and family."

Child Life Specialist Concentration:

The Family and Consumer Sciences, Child Life Specialist (CFCS) requires 131 credit hours. Specific general education courses are strongly suggested for successful completion of the program in accordance with the National Child Life Council. Please contact your advisor regarding these courses.

Student Organizations

Kentucky Association for the Early Childhood Education

Phi Upsilon Omicron National Honor Society

For more information contact Dr. Haynes-Lawrence at darbi.haynes-lawrence@wku.edu or MS. Janet Fugate at Janet.fugate@wku.edu

College of Health and Human Services Resources

The CHHS Academic Center of Excellence offers student personal advising, professional publications, academic enrichment activities, tutoring for CHHS courses, assistance with degree program completion and career exploration/planning, and a state-of-the-art computer lab with latest software for CHHS majors.

Child Life Specialist

Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

College of Health and Human Services

2009-2010

Fall			First Year			Spring		
CFS	191	3	Child Development	CFS	292	3	Diversity in Early Childhood Programs	
CFS	180	3	Found. in Family & Consumer Sciences	CFS	294	3	Assessment of Young Children	
CFS	192	3	Working with Young Children & Families	PSY	100	3	Introduction to Psychology	
ENG	100	3	Introduction to College Writing	PH	100	3	Personal Health	
MATH		3	MATH 109 or MATH 116			3	General Education Course (Foreign Lang.)	
Credit	Hours	15		Credit	Hours	15		

Fall			Second Year			Spring		
CFS	111	3	Human Nutrition	CFS	313	3	Practicum	
CFS	198	3	Guidance & Problem Solving Approaches	AH	290	2	Medical Terminology	
CFS	295	3	Curriculum Devel. For Infants & Toddlers	CFS	311	3	Family Relations	
CFS	296	3	Curr. Devel. For Preschool & Kindergarten	ENG	300	3	Writing in the Disciplines	
ENG	200	3	Introduction to Literature			3	General Education Course	
SOCL	300	3	Introductory Sociology			3	General Education Course (Lab Science)	
Credit	Hours	18		Credit	Hours	17		

Fall			Third Year			Spring		
CFS	393	3	Role of Play in Child Development	CFS	395	3	Child & Family Stress	
CFS	391	3	Risk & Resilience	CFS	399	3	Implications of Research in FCS	
SOC	300	3	Using Statistics in Sociology	REC	328	3	Inclusive Recreation	
CFS	380	3	Professional Presentation Techniques	SWRK	436	3	Services to Children	
PHIL	322	3	Biomedical Ethics	COMM		3	COMM 145 or COMM 161	
HIST		3	HIST 119 or HIST 120			3	General Education Course	
Credit	Hours	18		Credit	Hours	18		

Fall			Fourth Year			Spring		
SOC	440	3	Medical Sociology	CFS	494	3	Parenting Strategies	
SWRK	450	3	Child Maltreatment	CFS	496	3	Addressing Challenging Behavior	
CFS	492	3	Growth & Guidance of Children	CFS	499	3	Issues in Family & Child Studies	
CFS	493	3	Family Life Education	CFS	410	3	Internship	
CFS	310	3	Management of Family Resources					
		3	General Education Course					
Credit	Hours	18		Credit	Hours	12		

Total Credit Hours = 131

Student must maintain a GPA of 2.5 or better.

This sequencing is a basic guide and may be individualized for you by your academic advisor