

# CHILD LIFE (MS)

**Program Chairperson:** Leslie Anne Young  
**Program Includes:** The Child Life Teaching Team

Program Length: 3 Years (including internship)

This stand-alone Master's Program in the field of Child Life prepares individuals for careers working with children from birth through adolescence, who are medically fragile, hospitalized, or serviced in community healthcare facilities because of illness, injury, or specialty needs. While working with other health care professionals providing medical care, the child life specialist helps children and adolescents minimize anxiety, maintain relationships with their families, and retain their independence and self-esteem. The child life specialist is a clinical educator who provides developmental interventions to help patients and families understand and cope with traumatic experiences always respecting and honoring diversity and the family system. All M.S., Child Life Courses are taught by a Certified Child Life Specialist and are designed, implemented and evaluated according to the specific clinical and academic standards set forth by the National Association of Child Life Professionals. The Teaching Team has over 60 years of clinical Child Life Hospital Experience.

## Admission Requirements for Child Life Masters

In addition to the requirements and application materials listed in the Graduate Admission section of this catalog, the following are required:

1. Completed Admission Application and application fee.
2. Official transcripts from all institutions attended. A Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution with a preferred GPA of 3.0 or above in undergraduate work and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above in any graduate work.
3. Two letters of recommendation: one from an individual who can comment on applicant's ability to work with children, and the second from an individual who can comment on the applicant's academic skills and ability to succeed in graduate school
4. A professional resume.
5. Statement of purpose (approximately 500 words) that includes 1) any personal or professional experiences and qualifications related to your field of study, 2) your perspective on the importance and role of cultural competence in child life and the health care environment, and 3) applicant's motivation for seeking admission to the program
6. A individual interview (in person or virtually based on the location and availability).

## Admissions Prerequisites

1. At least 15 semester hours or a minimum of 5 courses in Child Development or related fields approved by the M.S., Child Life Chairperson
2. 1 to 2 years of professional work experience with children in educational institutions or related institutions approved by the M.S., Child Life Chairperson
3. Completion of the pre-admission questions and possible in-hospital visitation by the prospective candidate
4. A writing assessment with the chairperson
5. Preferred Child Life hospital volunteer experience

## Degree Requirements

**Total Program: 36 semester hours for M.S.**

### Foundation/Prerequisite Courses

The foundation courses a student must fulfill is determined by the chairperson's review of the student's undergraduate coursework, professional work experience with children experience with children and the writing assessment. If foundation courses are needed, they must be among the first courses taken (unless approved by the chairperson).

Code	Title	Semester Hours
EDUC 350	Child Psychology and Development	4
EDUC 352	Writing for Child Development	1-4
EDUC 353	Diversity and Equity in Early Childhood Education	4
EDUC 354P	Early Childhood Observation and Assessment Practicum	4
EDUC 451	Infant & Toddler Development	4
EDUC 452	Parenting Theory in Cultural Contexts	4
EDUC 454P	Early Childhood Student Teaching	4
SPED 401	Assessment: Education Specialist Professionalism	3
SPED 402	Culturally Responsive Instruction, Mindfulness, and Inclusivity	3
ASCD 550	Human Development	3
ASCD 551	Studies in Attachment	3
ASCD 558	Cognition and Brain Development	3
ASCL 599	Independent Study (Chairperson Approval Required)	1-4

### Core Courses

**33 semester hours**

Code	Title	Semester Hours
ASCL 504	Research Methods	3
ASCL 530	Child Life Administration and Program Development	3
ASCL 530A	Multi-Cultural Family Centered Care Class	3
ASCL 530C	Outreach and Technology for Child Life Educators	3
ASCL 530H	Effects of Disease and Injury on the Hospitalized Child-Part A	3
ASCL 530I	Child Life Assessment, Preparation and Medical Terminology	3
ASCL 530M	Helping Children Cope in the Health Care and Medical Setting	3
ASCL 530S	Developmental Issues of Grieving	3
ASCL 530T	Pediatric Educational and Therapeutic Interventions	3
ASCL 553F	Child Life Internship I	3
ASCL 553P	Child Life Internship II	3

**Total Semester Hours 33**

### Culminating Activity

**3 semester hours**

- ASCL 596 Advanced Studies in Child Life - Graduate Seminar