

# BS in Human Development and Family Science with Emphasis in Child Life Specialist

## Degree Program Description

The Child Life Specialist emphasis prepares students to support child development and family coping within the context of pediatric illness, injury, medical treatment, and grief in a variety of health care and community settings. Child life specialists use therapeutic play, psychological preparation, and coping skills interventions to help reduce children's anxiety and stress related to illness, disability, hospitalization, and other challenging life experiences. Through a family-centered care approach, they provide parents and other family members reassurance and emotional support, help them understand psychosocial needs, and provide tools to help prevent or minimize psychological trauma. Courses focus on understanding typical and exceptional child and family development, effective methods of supporting children and families, as well as integration of theory and research into hands-on clinical practice experiences. In addition to a 100-hour practicum experience (selection is on a competitive, space-available basis) at MU's Children's Hospital, the student's last semester is spent off-campus completing a 600-hour, unpaid clinical internship in a pediatric hospital setting. Placement in the HDFS child life practicum course and/or at clinical internship sites is not guaranteed by the University of Missouri. Students who successfully complete the degree program with the clinical internship option are eligible to take the Child Life Professional Certification Exam presented by the Child Life Certification Commission (CLCC) after graduation. Students may also choose to complete the non-clinical capstone option and pursue the clinical internship experience *after* graduation.

## Major Program Requirements

The HDFS-Child Life degree program requires that students successfully complete child life volunteer, practicum, and internship experiences to earn this degree. Those who successfully complete the clinical internship capstone option are well prepared to take the child life certification exam to earn the CCLS (Certified Child Life Specialist) credential after graduation. 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 beginning these experiences may necessitate dismissal from the child life emphasis in HDFS. The student is responsible for all costs incurred with these qualification checks.

Students must complete all university requirements (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegreerequirements/universityrequirements/>), including general education courses (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegreerequirements/generaleducationrequirements/>), in addition to the HDFS degree requirements below. All students must earn a grade of C- or higher, and a minimum 2.0 GPA overall in all HDFS courses taken to meet the HDFS

degree requirements.<sup>1</sup> A minimum of 120 credit hours is required to earn the degree.

<b>A. HDFS CORE I REQUIRED COURSES:</b>		<b>16</b>
H_D_FS 1600	Foundations of Family Science <sup>2</sup>	3
H_D_FS 1610	Intimate Relationships and Marriage	3
H_D_FS 2200	Research Methods in Human Development and Family Science	3
H_D_FS 2300	Multicultural Study of Children and Families	3
H_D_FS 2400W	Principles of Human Development - Writing Intensive	4
<b>B. HDFS CORE II - CHILD LIFE EMPHASIS REQUIRED COURSES:</b>		<b>37</b>
H_D_FS 2250	Child Life Volunteer Experience <sup>3</sup>	1
H_D_FS 3050	Child Development: Infancy and Toddlerhood	3
H_D_FS 3150W	Child Development: Preschool to Pre-Adolescence - Writing Intensive	3
H_D_FS 3430	Adolescence and Young Adulthood	3
H_D_FS 3500	Infant-Toddler Practicum	6
H_D_FS 3700	Preschool Practicum	6
H_D_FS 3800	Children's Play	3
H_D_FS 4100	Children in Healthcare Settings	3
H_D_FS 4110	Child Life Theory and Practice	3
H_D_FS 4130	Child Life Practicum <sup>4</sup>	3
H_D_FS 4400	Childhood Death and Bereavement	3
<b>C. HDFS CORE III REQUIRED COURSES:</b>		<b>6</b>
HDFS Upper-Level Diversity Requirement. Select at least two courses from the following:		
H_D_FS 4200	Latino/a Children, Youth, and Families	3
H_D_FS 4300	Black Children, Youth, and Families	3
H_D_FS 4610	Stress and Resilience in Families	3
H_D_FS 4620	Family Interaction	3
H_D_FS 4640	Interpersonal Relationships	3
H_D_FS 4700	Children and Families in Poverty	3
<b>D. HDFS ELECTIVE COURSES:</b>		<b>13</b>
Select from the following HDFS courses (and any others not already used to satisfy CORE I, II, or III requirements) and advisor-approved non-HDFS courses; 4 courses minimum <sup>5</sup>		
H_D_FS 1234	Successful Adulting	3
H_D_FS 2450	Human Sexuality Across the Life Span	3
H_D_FS 3085	Problems in Human Development and Family Science	1-30
H_D_FS 3090	Research Experience in Human Development and Family Science	1-30
H_D_FS 3440	Adulthood and Aging	3
H_D_FS 3450	Health, Safety and Nutrition	3
H_D_FS 3550	Technology and Young Children	3
H_D_FS 3600	Partnering with Parents and Families	3
H_D_FS 3650	Diversity in the Lives of Young Children and Families	3
H_D_FS 3960	Readings in Human Development and Family Science	1-30
H_D_FS 4001	Topics in Human Development and Family Science	1-6
H_D_FS 4085	Problems in Human Development and Family Science	1-30
H_D_FS 4680	Family Communication	3

H_D_FS 4720	Child and Family Advocacy	3
<b>E. REQUIREMENTS IN RELATED AREAS:</b>		<b>14</b>
CDS 2190	Medical Terminology	3
COMMUN 1200	Public Speaking	3
PHIL 2440	Medical Ethics	3
PTH_AS 2201	Human Anatomy Lecture	3
PTH_AS 2203	Human Anatomy Laboratory	2
<b>F. HDF5 CAPSTONE - CLINICAL INTERNSHIP OPTION</b>		<b>15</b>
H_D_FS 4993	Internship in Human Development and Family Science <sup>6</sup>	1-15

**OR**  
**F. HDF5 CAPSTONE - NON-CLINICAL OPTION** **15 -16**

REQUIRED CAPSTONE COURSE:

H_D_FS 4970	Human Development and Family Science Capstone	3
or H_D_FS 4970W	Human Development and Family Science Capstone - Writing Intensive	

CHOOSE ONE (REQUIRED):

H_D_FS 4090	Advanced Research in Human Development and Family Science	3
or H_D_FS 4993	Internship in Human Development and Family Science	

SELECT 9 ELECTIVE CREDITS (REQUIRED):  
 ELECTIVE CREDITS - Can include any of the following:<sup>7</sup> **9**

- Additional HDF5 courses not already used to satisfy CORE I, II, or III, or HDF5 Elective requirements
- Minor, certificate, or elective courses from other departments

- Some courses may require a higher grade than C- to advance in the program. Child life clinical education sites typically require that students have substantially higher GPAs (ex., 3.0+ cumulative) to be considered for clinical education placements.**
- H\_D\_FS 1600 should be taken before H\_D\_FS 2300 and any 3000/4000-level H\_D\_FS course.
- Should be completed no later than the 2nd semester of Sophomore year.
- Seats are limited in H\_D\_FS 4130. Students are admitted to this course via a competitive application and interview selection process.** Applicants are selected one semester prior to enrolling in H\_D\_FS 4130. A 3.0 cumulative GPA is required for interview eligibility, in addition to completion of selected required courses. See the HDF5 Child Life academic advisor for more information.  
 A grade of B (3.0) or higher must be earned in **H\_D\_FS 4130** to be admitted to the child life clinical internship section of **H\_D\_FS 4993**.
- Students may plan a program of study which will help prepare them for earning the Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) credential from the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR). Consultation with the student's academic advisor is recommended to determine the current requirements for this credential.
- Students enter a student-initiated, competitive, nationwide application process to earn a clinical internship placement at a pediatric healthcare facility outside of Columbia, MO, the semester prior to enrolling in H\_D\_FS 4993. All other coursework requirements must be completed prior to the start of H\_D\_FS 4993.**

<sup>7</sup> Consult with an HDF5 academic advisor for a list of approved elective courses.

## Semester Plan

Below is a sample plan of study, semester by semester. A student's actual plan may vary based on course choices where options are available.

First Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
ENGLSH 1000		3 Gen Ed PHYS or MATH Science	3
Gen Ed MATH		3 COMMUN 1200	3
Gen Ed Soc/Behavioral Science		3 H_D_FS 2300	3
H_D_FS 1600		3 H_D_FS 2400W	4
H_D_FS 1610		3 History or Political Science	3
			<b>16</b>

Second Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
CDS 2190		3 H_D_FS 2200	3
Gen Ed Humanities		3 H_D_FS 3150W	3
H_D_FS 2250		1 H_D_FS 3500	6
H_D_FS 3050		3 PTH_AS 2203	2
NEP 1034		3	
PTH_AS 2201		3	
			<b>14</b>

Third Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
H_D_FS 3430		3 H_D_FS 4110	3
H_D_FS 3700		6 H_D_FS 4130	3
H_D_FS 3800		3 H_D_FS 4400	3
H_D_FS 4100		3 HDF5 CORE III	3
		PHIL 2440	3
			<b>15</b>

Fourth Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
HDF5 CORE III		3 CAPSTONE OPTION #1: Clinical Internship	
HDF5 ELECTIVE		3 H_D_FS 4993	15
HDF5 ELECTIVE		3 -----	
HDF5 ELECTIVE		3 CAPSTONE OPTION #2: Non-Clinical Course Sequence	
HDF5 ELECTIVE		3 H_D_FS 4970 (3 CR.) AND H_D_FS 4090 (3 CR.) or H_D_FS 4993 (3 CR.) AND ELECTIVE COURSES (9 CR.)	
			<b>15</b>

**Total Credits: 121**