CHILD LIFE, ADMINISTRATION AND FAMILY COLLABORATION M.S.

Degree: Master of Science
https://www.towson.edu/cla/departments/familystudies/grad/childlife/

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Email: lmartinelli@towson.edu

The Master of Science program in Child Life, Administration and Family Collaboration provides advanced preparation for Certified Child Life Specialists (CCLS) currently working in the field and for those students seeking CCLS certification. This program has a broad scope of curriculum that not only engages students from the eyes of a child life specialist through applied research, but also focuses on family collaboration and prepares students for management and administrative positions.

The program is 39-41 units. Upon completion of this program, students will have earned a graduate degree that includes course work related to Child Life, a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Family-Professional Collaboration, as well as course work related to administration. Students may opt to complete the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Clinician-Administrator Transition. The curriculum design of this graduate program is intended for students who are interested in pursuing graduate study in Child Life at the entry level as well as practicing Certified Child Life Specialists returning to school to advance their clinical, research and professional knowledge and skills through a graduate degree.

**Accelerated Bachelor’s-Master’s Program**

Students may also earn the M.S. in Child Life, Administration and Family Collaboration through the bachelor’s to master’s degree program in child life. The B.S./M.S. program (http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/family-studies-community-development/combined-bachelors-family-human-services-masters-child-life) is designed to allow students to complete accelerated undergraduate and graduate degrees in a shorter time frame, including 9 units taken during the summer terms. This program is open only to undergraduates pursuing the Introduction to Child Life Track in the Department of Family Studies and Community Development.

**Admission Requirements**
http://www.towson.edu/cla/departments/familystudies/grad/childlife/admission.html

**Application Deadline**
Fall admission only. Application deadline: 1/15

**Admission Requirements - Applicants with Bachelor’s Degrees**

Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree in family studies, family science, health education and promotion, human services, human development, psychology, sociology or another related discipline, obtained at a regionally accredited college or university*. A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required for full admission or a 2.75 for conditional admission.

Applicants must have completed the following courses with a grade of "C" or higher:

- Biological sciences (1 course)
- English composition (minimum of one upper-level course)
- Human development across the lifespan (one lower-level course)
- Infant and/or child development and adolescent development course work (two courses - 6 upper-level units)
- Research methods (one upper-level course)
- Four upper-level courses from the content areas of death and dying, education, expressive therapies, psychology, or sociology

Applicants must have a minimum of 100 hours of volunteer, child life practicum or paid work experience (example, child life assistant) with children with special health care needs in a child life department under the direct supervision of a Certified Child Life Specialist. Applicants with volunteer hours beyond the minimum will be viewed more favorably.

Applicants must submit a completed Volunteer/Work Experience Verification Form for each institution at which volunteer, practicum or work hours in the child life department under the direct supervision of a Certified Child Life Specialist have been collected.

The highest-ranking applicants will be required to interview with the faculty of the Child Life, Administration and Family Collaboration program. Invitations to interview will be made in February. Interviews will take place in March.

*See Exceptions to Policy in Graduate Admissions. (https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/policies.html)

**Non-immigrant International Students**

Program Enrollment: F-1 and J-1 students are required to be enrolled full-time. The majority of their classes must be in-person and on campus. See the list of programs that satisfy these requirements (https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/international/programs-complying/f1-j1-regulations.html), and contact the International Student and Scholars Office (https://www.towson.edu/academics/international/isso) with questions.

Admission Procedures: See additional information regarding Graduate Admission policies (https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/policies.html) and International Graduate Application (https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/international) online.

**Admission Materials**

Applicants must submit the following materials:

- A Towson University graduate school application with required fee
- Official transcripts from every college or university attended
- An essay not exceeding three double-spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margin typed pages. The essay should answer the following questions:

  1. Briefly describe ways in which the work of a child life specialist contributes to the health care experience of a child and his/her family.
  2. How did you become interested in the field of child life?
3. Provide a specific example of a time that you used play to meet the developmental needs of a child in a health care setting.

4. Explain the relevance of research to Child Life. How do you see research informing your role?

   - Two letters of recommendation: one from a professor of the applicant and one from someone who has supervised the applicant working with children. Email addresses of recommenders must be entered on application.

   - A completed Coursework Verification Form

Form A: Coursework Verification (PDF) (http://www.towson.edu/cla/departments/familystudies/documents/forma_courseworkverification.pdf)

Note - Applicants who are already certified child life specialists may complete Form B to request a competency in lieu of coursework review for any of the courses noted above. This review would include documentation that verifies the individual's mastery of the course content. Successful requests for competency in lieu of coursework should include a didactic (Re: workshops, professional development and/or related undergraduate coursework) preparation and professional practice.

Form B: Competency in Lieu of Coursework Request (PDF) (http://www.towson.edu/cla/departments/familystudies/documents/competency.pdf)

A completed Volunteer/Work Experience Verification Form for each institution at which you volunteered or worked in the child life department under the direct supervision of a Certified Child Life Specialist.

Form C: Volunteer/Work Experience Verification Form (PDF) (http://www.towson.edu/cla/departments/familystudies/documents/volunteer_work_experience_verification_form.pdf)

**PLEASE NOTE GRE scores are NOT required for admission.**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FMST 540</td>
<td>THE HOSPITALIZED CHILD AND FAMILY</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>FMST 545</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO ART THERAPY</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>FMST 602</td>
<td>CHILD LIFE PROFESSIONAL SEMINAR</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>FMST 603</td>
<td>THERAPEUTIC BENEFITS OF PLAY</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>FMST 604</td>
<td>BEREAVEMENT, GRIEF AND LOSS: A CHILD LIFE PROSPECTIVE</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>FMST 640</td>
<td>MEDICAL ASPECTS OF ILLNESS: A CHILD LIFE PERSPECTIVE</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>FMST 697</td>
<td>GRADUATE INTERNSHIP IN FAMILY STUDIES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>FMST 610</td>
<td>FAMILY-PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATION</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>FMST 615</td>
<td>APPLIED RESEARCH METHODS IN FAMILY SCIENCE</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>FMST 620</td>
<td>PROJECT IN FAMILY FOCUSED PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT</td>
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**Degree Requirements for Students Who Are Child Life Specialists**

Entering students who are already Certified Child Life Specialists are required to complete 6 units of child life course work, 12 units of Family-Professional Collaboration course work, 6 units of Graduate Project/Thesis and 9-15 units of healthcare administration course work. Students who take 9 units of healthcare administration course work must select 6 units of elective course work. Elective courses must meet the approval of the program director.

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>IDHP 600</td>
<td>TRANSITIONS: HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT</td>
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<td>IDHP 605</td>
<td>MANAGING HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDHP/HLTH 651</td>
<td>PLANNING AND MARKETING HEALTH IN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY</td>
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Total Units 41

**Clinician-Administrator Transition Courses**

IDHP 600 TRANSITIONS: HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT 3
IDHP 605 MANAGING HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS 3
IDHP/HLTH 651 PLANNING AND MARKETING HEALTH IN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY 3

**Healthcare Administration Courses/Electives**

Students may choose to meet the administration course requirement by either completing the Clinician-Administrator Transition (CAT) course work (15 units), or students may select 9 units of CAT courses and 6 units of elective course work for a total of 15 units 1,2

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<tr>
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<td>TRANSITIONS: HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT</td>
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<td>IDHP 605</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDHP/HLTH 647</td>
<td>HEALTH CARE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDHP/HLTH 651</td>
<td>PLANNING AND MARKETING HEALTH IN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY</td>
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**Electives (6 units) for students who choose to complete 9 units of health-care administration course work**

Electives must be preapproved by the graduate program director or department chairperson and shall be selected from the following content areas: family studies, education, psychology, sociology, health science or related field

**Graduate Project/Thesis**

Select one of the following options: 6

Graduate Project

FMST 880 GRADUATE PROJECT IN FAMILY STUDIES
Research Elective (3 units): may include additional research courses in fields such as child development, education, psychology, family science or FMST independent study (department approval required)

Graduate Thesis

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FMST 897</td>
<td>FAMILY AND HUMAN SERVICE THESIS (6 units)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FMST 898</td>
<td>FAMILY AND HUMAN SERVICE THESIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>&amp; FMST 899</td>
<td>and FAMILY AND HUMAN SERVICE THESIS</td>
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<td></td>
<td>CONTINUUM (6 units)</td>
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Total Units 39

1. Students who complete 9 units of healthcare administration course work will complete 6 units of elective course work, for a total of 15 units.

2. Students who complete 15 units of health-care administration course work will earn a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Clinician-Administrator Transition.

3. FMST 898 (3 units) - taken twice over two semesters and FMST 899 (1 unit) - taken as many times as needed if the thesis is not finished in the first 6 units.

1. Students will demonstrate acquisition and application of knowledge in child life theory and practice, family professional collaboration and administration. Students will demonstrate literacy and technological competency in course work.

2. Students will demonstrate critical thinking and clinical reasoning when providing direct or administrative services.

3. Students will demonstrate professional skills necessary for practice as a child life specialist within the multidisciplinary team.