

MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.S.) MAJOR IN FAMILY AND CHILD STUDIES (CHILD LIFE SPECIALIST CONCENTRATION NON-THESIS OPTION)

Major Program

The graduate program provides students with the knowledge and expertise to attain professional positions and advancement opportunities in programs serving families and children.

Application Requirements

The items listed below are required for admission consideration for applicable semesters of entry during the current academic year. Submission instructions, additional details, and changes to admission requirements for semesters other than the current academic year can be found on The Graduate College's website (<http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu>). International students should review the International Admission Documents webpage (<http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/graduate/admission-documents/international>) for additional requirements.

- completed online ApplyTexas application
- \$40 nonrefundable application fee
- \$50 nonrefundable international evaluation fee (if applicable)
- baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited university
- official transcripts required from **each institution** where course credit was granted
- minimum 3.0 GPA in your last 60 hours of undergraduate course work (plus any completed graduate courses)
- background course work
- official GRE scores required with a preferred minimum of 285 (verbal and quantitative sections combined) with no less than 145 in the verbal section and 140 in the quantitative section
- resume/CV
- statement of purpose (approximately 500 words)
- three letters of recommendation

TOEFL or IELTS Scores

Non-native English speakers who do not qualify for an English proficiency waiver:

- official TOEFL iBT scores required with a 78 overall
- official IELTS (academic) scores required with a 6.5 overall and
 - minimum individual module scores of 6.0

This program does **not** offer admission if the scores above are not met.

Degree Requirements

The Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Family and Consumer Studies with a concentration in child life specialist requires 37 semester credit

hours. Students who do not have the appropriate background course work may be required to complete leveling courses.

Course Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
FCD 5100	Introduction to Family and Child Studies	1
FCD 5341	Advanced Child Development	3
FCD 5351	Advanced Theory in Family and Child Studies	3
FCD 5352	Seminar: Issues in Family and Child Studies	3
FCS 5310	Research Methods in FCS	3
Concentration		
FCD 5343	Hospitalized Child: Child Life Specialist	3
FCD 5345	Advanced Methods in Child Life	3
FCD 5659	Internship in Child Life ¹	6
Electives		
Choose 12 hours from the following:		12
COUN 5316	Counseling Diverse Populations	
COUN 5340	Loss and Grief Recovery Counseling	
COUN 5368	Developmental Issues in Counseling Children, Adolescents, and Adults	
COUN 5369	Child and Adolescent Counseling Methods	
FCD 5347	Grief and Bereavement in Children, Adolescents, and Parents	
FCD 5353	Program Evaluation in Family and Child Studies	
FCD 5356	Advanced Program Administration	
FCD 5358	Practicum in Family and Child Studies I	
HA 5300	Healthcare Organization and Delivery	
SOCI 5363	Seminar in Medical Sociology	
SOCI 5370	Seminar in Multi-Cultural Relations	
SOWK 5308	Human Behavior in Individual and Family Social Environments	
SOWK 5315	Social Work Intervention in Child Abuse & Neglect	
Total Hours		37

¹ The child life internship is a full-time, non-paid internship required by the Child Life Council. It should be completed in the final year of the master's program. Child life internships are extremely competitive in nature and interns are selected by the individual hospitals. Therefore, internships are not guaranteed. Also, due to the competitive nature of internships, it might be necessary to apply to hospitals outside of the Central Texas area.

Comprehensive Examination Requirements

All candidates for graduate degrees must pass one or more comprehensive examinations.

Master's level courses in Family and Child Studies: FCD

Courses Offered

Family and Child Development (FCD)

FCD 5100. Introduction to Family and Child Studies.

Focus on gaining information and competencies important to graduate study success. Includes academic expectations for graduate students as well as information related to the Family and Child Studies graduate program. Required for Family and Child Studies majors.

1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

FCD 5101. Graduate Assistant Development.

This course is required as a condition of employment for graduate teaching and instructional assistants. This course provides regular in-service and planned periodic evaluations of instructional responsibilities. This course does not earn graduate degree credit. Repeatable with different emphasis.

1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Graduate Assistantship|Exclude from Graduate GPA

Grade Mode: Leveling/Assistantships

FCD 5199B. Thesis.

This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollment. Focus is on data collection, analysis, and writing of thesis. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Prerequisite: FCD 5399A.

1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

FCD 5299B. Thesis.

This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollment. Focus is on data collection, analysis, and writing of thesis. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Prerequisite: FCD 5399A.

2 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

FCD 5302K. Foundations of Play.

This course will address foundations and theories of play in the growth and development of children. Medical play, play therapy, music therapy, art therapy, and animal therapy will also be incorporated into the course curriculum.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

FCD 5340. Advanced Cultural Diversity of Families.

Survey study of family diversity through selected family science research methods and topics including family structure and function, family life patterns, multicultural groups, agents of enculturation, and family life education. Prerequisite: Graduate Standing. (MULT).

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Multicultural Content

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

FCD 5341. Advanced Child Development.

Focus on developmental processes and influences from conception through early childhood period. Includes interactive relationship of biological and environmental factors in total development of the child. Child observations required. Prerequisite: Graduate Standing.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

FCD 5343. Hospitalized Child: Child Life Specialist.

This course enhances students' ability to utilize theoretical and applied technologies when interacting with children and families in hospital settings. Prerequisite: Graduate Standing.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

FCD 5344. Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health.

This course provides an interdisciplinary understanding of the social and emotional development of infants and young children within the context of the family. Focus will be on the role of the infant mental health specialist in strengthening the development of young children and the parent-child relationship.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

FCD 5345. Advanced Methods in Child Life.

This course focuses on the applied techniques and methodologies essential to the child life profession. In addition, this course offers guided experience and opportunities for stepping into the child life profession, ongoing career development and self care.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

FCD 5346. Foundations of Family and Child Studies.

This course will cover the foundations of family and child studies. Topics will include child development, principles of guidance, and family relationships. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. This course does not earn graduate degree credit.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from Graduate GPA|Leveling

Grade Mode: Leveling/Assistantships

FCD 5347. Grief and Bereavement in Children, Adolescents, and Parents.

This course includes a historical review of theoretical models on grief and bereavement, influences on grief and bereavement responses, and current perspectives on helping the bereaved cope. Implications for child life specialists will be analyzed.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

FCD 5348. Pain and Anxiety Management for Children.

This course provides child life students with theoretical foundations and applied non-pharmacological strategies for assessing children's pain and anxiety and assisting them with alleviation during painful healthcare and other life experiences.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

FCD 5350. Research Design and Methods in Family and Child Studies.

Evaluation of research concepts, methods, and strategies in family and child studies. Topics include the nature of scientific research, sampling, measurement, data collection, types of socio-behavioral research, data analysis, and evaluation of research reports.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

FCD 5351. Advanced Theory in Family and Child Studies.

A critical evaluation of theoretical concepts and current research in family and child studies. Emphasis on recent trends in family and child theories.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

FCD 5352. Seminar: Issues in Family and Child Studies.

Seminar to examine current issues in family and child studies. Emphasis on current research, theories, and applications. Also includes orientation to the conceptual and methodological perspectives of multi-disciplinary study in the field of family and child studies.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

FCD 5353. Program Evaluation in Family and Child Studies.

Study of the diversity and effectiveness of family and child services programs at the federal, state, and community levels. Program evaluation strategies and measures, fiscal management, and grant writing will be included.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

FCD 5355. Advanced Independent Study.

Individual work on problems related to student's primary area of specialization. Work may consist of empirical research or of critical reviews and integration of existing literature. Course may be repeated once for credit when topics vary.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

FCD 5356. Advanced Program Administration.

Study of family and child services systems. Management theory and strategies, strategic planning, program development and implementation, personnel management, and public policy are emphasized.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

FCD 5357. Comparative Studies in Child Development.

The study of cultural values and beliefs regarding children and the reflection of these in childrearing and early care and education programs and practices in the U.S. and selected countries. The interactive influence of culture and national policies will also be studied.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

FCD 5358. Practicum in Family and Child Studies I.

Structured practical experience in family and child studies in a private or public setting. Supervision provided by a member of the graduate faculty and a designated individual at the work site. Focus will be on experiential learning. Prerequisite: Departmental approval required; online practicum form required for registration.

3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 6 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

FCD 5359. Practicum in Family and Child Studies II.

Continued practical experience in family and child studies at a private or public setting with supervision provided by a member of the graduate faculty and a designated individual at the work site. A research report will be integrated with practical application. Prerequisite: FCD 5358 with a grade of "C" or better.

3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 6 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

FCD 5399A. Thesis.

This course represents a student's initial thesis enrollment. Focus is on identification of thesis topic, review of literature, and research design. No thesis credit is awarded until student has completed the thesis in FCD 5399B.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

FCD 5399B. Thesis.

This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollment. Focus is on data collection, analysis, and writing of thesis. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Prerequisite: FCD 5399A.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

FCD 5599B. Thesis.

This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollment. Focus is on data collection, analysis, and writing of thesis. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Prerequisite: FCD 5399A.

5 Credit Hours. 5 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

FCD 5659. Internship in Child Life.

Structured hospital experience for individuals who plan to pursue a career in child life. Provides opportunity to work in a hospital setting under the direction of a certified child life specialist. Prerequisite: 30 hours of graduate coursework or approval of graduate advisor; online practicum form required.

6 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 32 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

FCD 5999B. Thesis.

This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollment. Focus is on data collection, analysis, and writing of thesis. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Prerequisite: FCD 5399A.

9 Credit Hours. 9 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit