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

Program Overview
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 application
- $55 nonrefundable application fee
  or
- $90 nonrefundable application fee for applications with international credentials
- baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited university
- official transcripts from each institution where course credit was granted
- minimum 3.0 GPA in the last 60 hours of undergraduate course work (plus any completed graduate courses)
- background course work
- official GRE (general test only) with competitive scores in the verbal reasoning and quantitative reasoning sections
- 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 with a major in Human Development and Family Sciences 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FCS 5310</td>
<td>Research Methods in FCS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 5100</td>
<td>Introduction to Human Development and Family Sciences</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 5341</td>
<td>Advanced Child Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 5351</td>
<td>Advanced Theory in Human Development and Family Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 5352</td>
<td>Issues in Human Development and Family Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 5305</td>
<td>Foundations of Play</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 5343</td>
<td>Child Life Specialist</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 5659</td>
<td>Internship in Child Life</td>
<td>6</td>
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</tbody>
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Prescribed Electives
Choose 12 hours from the following:

- 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
- HA 5300 Healthcare Organization and Delivery
- HDFS 5347 Grief and Bereavement in Children, Adolescents, and Parents
- HDFS 5353 Program Evaluation in Human Development and Family Sciences
- HDFS 5356 Advanced Program Administration
- HDFS 5358 Practicum in Human Development and Family Sciences I
- SOCI 5363 Seminar in Medical Sociology
- SOCI 5370 Seminar in Sociology of Racial and Ethnic 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 Requirement
Students pursuing the non-thesis option will be required to complete a written exam consisting of objective and essay questions that cover the core content areas required for their particular track. As a result, the comprehensive exam should be taken after the student has completed 18 hours of graduate degree credit AND his/her core coursework over which the student will be examined (with a GPA of at least 3.0 and earn a B or
better in the core course work). Students must sit for all four exams on their first attempt. After the first attempt students will only be required to sit for the exams which they have not passed.

The comprehensive exam will be held on the first Friday of March, June, and September on campus at a time and location to be determined. Students planning to take the exam must sign up online through the google link located on the "Current students" page. Students will be given one hour to complete each section. There are a total of four sections.

Comprehensive exam questions are evaluated on both the quality and content of the response. Two faculty members evaluate the student’s response to each comprehensive exam question. If there is disagreement regarding whether a response is acceptable, a third reader will read the response and make a final evaluation decision. The evaluation decision for each section is made independently of the other sections and can be as follows:

- P=Pass all components of the exam.
- CP=Conditional pass (At the discretion of the graduate faculty, the student must write a paper related to the content area that received a CP and/or orally defend his/her response; faculty determine whether the student writes a paper or orally defends his/her response).
- F=Fail (student who fails three or more sections of the exam must retake all four sections of the exam the following semester). Students can "retake" the exam only twice for a total of three attempts. If the student does not pass one or more sections on the third attempt, the student must re-take relevant coursework and pass with a B or better. The student must then petition the program graduate faculty and request to take an oral exam for the final attempt. It is at the discretion of the graduate faculty whether the petition will be granted. If the petition is granted, the oral exam will take place with a format as well as at a time and place to be determined. The student can only pass or fail the oral comprehensive exam. Students will not graduate from the program without passing all sections of the comprehensive exam.

Students must complete the comprehensive exam within five years of beginning the graduate program.

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

**Courses Offered**

**Family and Child Development (FCD)**