



Family & Child Life Master's Program

The Family and Child Life degree includes an advanced interdisciplinary study of interpersonal and family relationships. The graduate program has a strong emphasis on community involvement, practical application, and research. Graduates are prepared for advanced career opportunities in children's hospitals, family social service agencies, parent education programs, family counseling centers, and other family life education settings or doctoral study in family relations

Students with a master's degree in Family & Child Life will be able to:

- 1) Conceptualize and design family research related to their area of interest.
- 2) Critically evaluate contemporary empirical literature.
- 3) Interact and communicate effectively with families and other professionals.
- 4) Demonstrate effective oral and written communication.
- 5) Analyze quantitative data and interpret output from statistical analyses.

What is unique about the Family & Child Life graduate program at CWU?

- All Family and Child Life Master's students complete a multi-term practicum or internship experience in an agency suited to their particular professional goals. Students pursuing child life certification can complete this requirement in a child life internship in a children's hospital.
- All students design and conduct a research study specific to their area of interest. Students have the opportunity to present their findings at a University sponsored research symposium as well as a regional professional conference.
- Students have the flexibility to choose a capstone project that best meets their professional goals. Students will work with an advisor to decide whether to complete a thesis research project, an alternative project, or a comprehensive examination.
- Limited teaching assistantships are available. Assistantships provide tuition support and a stipend in exchange for students serving as instructors and advisors in the family and child life undergraduate program.

For information about the Family & Child Life Master's Program, please contact:

Dr. Amy Claridge
Family & Child Life Program Director
Assistant Professor, Family & Child Life
Michaelsen Hall 327
Amy.Claridge@cwu.edu
(509) 963- 2758

Dr. Sarah Feeney
Assistant Professor, Family & Child Life
Michaelsen Hall 227
Sarah.Feeney@cwu.edu
(509) 963-2292

Dr. Duane Alan Dowd
Department Chair
Associate Professor, Family & Child Life
Michaelsen Hall 100
Duane.Dowd@cwu.edu
(509) 963-2740

Family & Child Life Master's Degree

Required Courses

Course #	Title	Credits
FCL 501	Research Methods	4
FCL 502	Statistics	4
FCL 532	Family Interaction	4
FCL 534	Therapeutic Applications of Child Development	4
FCL 547	Families and Poverty	4
FCL 592	Practicum	12
FCL 595	Graduate Research	1
FCL 700	Master's Thesis, Project Study, and/or Examination	2-6*
	Approved Electives	12
	Total Credits	47-51

* Examination = 2 credits; Project Study = 4 credits; Thesis = 6 credits

Approved Elective Courses:

FCL 405	Professional Obligations and Responsibilities (4)
FCL 438	Attachment Theory and Practice (4)
FCL 503	Family Communication (4)
FCL 514	Coping with Grief and Loss (4)
FCL 515	Therapeutic Play (4)
FCL 516	Child Life I: Scope of Practice (4)
FCL 517	Diseases and Disorders (4)
FCL 518	Child Life II: Impact of Hospitalization (4)
FCL 533	Family Life Education (4)
FCL 539	Families and Public Policy (4)
FCL 582	Curriculum Development (4)

Child Life Certification:

In order to seek child life certification, students are required to complete a child life internship and the following courses (or their equivalents):

FCL 232	Child Development (3)
FCL 339	Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood (4)
FCL 438	Attachment Theory and Practice (4)
FCL 514	Coping with Grief and Loss (4)
FCL 515	Therapeutic Play (4)
FCL 516	Child Life I: Scope of Practice (4)
FCL 517	Diseases and Disorders (4)
FCL 518	Child Life II: Impact of Hospitalization (4)

Students may enter the program having already fulfilled these requirements or will be able to take these courses as electives in the Master's program.

Applying for the Family and Child Life Graduate Program

Application Requirements:

- Online admission application
- Statement of objectives
- Three letters of recommendation (at least one academic)
- Official transcripts

Deadline:

- Deadline for priority application for Summer/Fall enrollment is Feb 1st.

For more information, visit the graduate school website:
<http://www.cwu.edu/masters/apply-cwu-graduate-school>