

**Child Development and Family Science**

Application to Declare Major, Minor, or Certificate

***Description of Programs***

**MAJORS**

***The Child Development & Family Science major has three specializations for you to choose from:***

**Child Development** is the study of how children grow physically, emotionally, socially, and cognitively from conception to adulthood. Students in the specialization apply child development theory to the practice of helping children across diverse settings, including child welfare and social service organizations. Child Development students take several applied skills courses taught by clinicians. In these courses, students develop therapeutic skills and are well-prepared to work with children and families in many settings following graduation.

**Child Life** Specialists are child development experts who help children and families cope in medical settings such as hospitals. They provide education about medical diagnoses and treatments and promote coping through procedural support, play, and therapeutic activities. Graduates of the child life specialization are prepared to pursue child life graduate studies, internships, and certification as Certified Child Life Specialists.

**Family Science** is the interdisciplinary study of families and close interpersonal relationships. We focus on understanding the dynamics of families in a changing society, as well as the impact that family interaction has on individual development and well-being. Family Science emphasizes a systems perspective in helping families build healthy relationships and preventing problems before they occur. Graduates are prepared to work in community social service agencies, to provide family life education, or to pursue graduate school in family science, social work, marriage and family therapy, or other related fields.

**MINORS and CERTIFICATE**

Many professions involve direct or indirect contact with children and families. For instance, counselors, psychologists, social service workers, teachers, nutritionists, public health officials, attorneys, law enforcement officers, and others may interact with children or with parents in their practice. Students pursuing careers where they will have contact with children and families will be more successful if they have a basic understanding of child development and family processes and should consider a minor in one of our programs:

The **Family Science** minor involves the study of family dynamics from a systems perspective. Students will develop skills for healthy romantic and familial relationships, and will gain practical skills to work with families.

The **Child Development** minor or certificate involves study of theories of child development and cutting-edge research about how children develop in multiple domains, with a focus on how development occurs in the context of family, community, and culture. Students also develop skills for practical application of child development.

**More information about the major and minor programs and each major specialization is available** [**here**](https://www.cwu.edu/child-family)**.**

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1. Please fully complete sections 1-3 of the application:

Section 1. Enter your information.

Section 2. Select the program you would like to declare. *You cannot major and minor in Child Development and Family Science. The only exception is: You can complete the Child Development certificate in addition to the Family Science major or minor.*

Section 3. Sign and date the form (an electronic signature is fine).

Section 4. Leave Blank.

2. After the application is complete, e-mail it to Dr. Amy Claridge (Amy.Claridge@cwu.edu). She will finish the enrollment process and assign you an advisor who will work with you to develop a graduation plan.

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| **Name:** | **ID#** | | | **Phone:** | |
| **CWU Email:** | | | **Class Level:** FR SO JR SR GR Post-Bac | | |
| **Mailing address:** | | **State:** | | | **Zip Code:** |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CHECK** |  | GPA Requirement to Apply | **CODES** |
|  | **MAJOR in Child Development & Family Science** |  | CDFS |
|  | Child Development | 2.8 | CHILDE |
|  | Child Life | 3.0 | CHILIF |
|  | Family Science | 2.8 | FAMSCI |
|  | **MINORS** |  |  |
|  | Child Development | 2.5 | FACSMINCD |
|  | Family Science | 2.5 | FACSMINFS |
|  | Family Science Online | 2.5 | FACSMINFSO |
|  | **CERTIFICATE** |  |  |
|  | Child Development | N/A | N/A |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Student Signature: | | Date: |
| ***To be Completed by Child Development & Family Science Program Coordinator and Department Chair:*** | | |
| Catalog Year: 20\_\_\_\_ to 20\_\_\_\_ | Admission GPA requirement (circle one):  2.5 2.8 3.0 | Student GPA: |
| Assigned Advisor Name: | Program Coordinator Signature: | Date: |
| Chair Signature: | | Date: |