



Central Washington University
Board of Trustees
July 28-29, 2016

ACTION – New Degree, Master of Science in Family and Child Life

The MS Family and Child Life provides students the opportunity to obtain the education necessary to become certified child life specialists (CCLS) and pursue careers with social service agencies and children’s hospitals and/or pursue a doctoral degree. Child life specialists are child development experts who help children and families cope during hospitalization. They promote coping through play, self-expression activities, and medical preparation.

This program is interdisciplinary in nature with a focus on the study of interpersonal and family relationships, community engagement, research, and practical application.

By 2021, the [Child Life Council](#), the accrediting body for child life programs, will no longer certify child life specialists without a master’s level degree in child life studies. At present, there are no child life education programs in the Pacific Northwest. As such, the onboarding of this degree program will fill a significant gap in the region’s workforce needs – for example, at the eight children’s hospitals in Oregon and Washington that hire CCLS.

The Faculty Senate approved this new degree program on June 1, 2016 (Motion No. 15-60).

We recommend the following motion:

The Board of Trustees of Central Washington University endorses the recommendation of the Faculty Senate and approves the Master of Science Family and Child Life.

Submitted:

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Katherine P. Frank
Provost/Vice President for Academic and Student Life

Approved for submission:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James L. Gaudino', is written over a horizontal line.

James. L. Gaudino
President