



The University of Georgia

*The University of Georgia and
Georgia Health Sciences University
Joint Child Life Emphasis Program*

Undergraduate

Child Life

Handbook

CMC

Georgia Health Sciences
Children's Medical Center



2011-2012

*The University of Georgia and
Georgia Health Sciences University
Joint Child Life Emphasis Program*

Undergraduate Child Life Handbook

*Department of Child and Family Development
University of Georgia
2011-2012*

*Two Georgia
institutions have
joined resources
to provide a child
life curriculum*

WHAT IS CHILD LIFE?

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Child Life is an evolving profession within the health care field. Child Life professionals work primarily in hospitals and medical centers. The role of a Child Life Specialist is to provide for the unique developmental and emotional needs of hospitalized children and their families. Child Life Specialists fulfill this role primarily by: (a) providing for a child's continued growth and development during hospitalization, and (b) helping the hospitalized child and family cope with stressful experiences. Specific interventions used to reach these goals include preparing children for medical procedures, providing emotional support to patients and families, and providing opportunities for children's play. A Child Life Specialist serves as an advocate for children and families within the health care setting and works as an integral part of the health care team. Child Life programs range in size from one Child Life Specialist to more than 20.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

UNDERGRADUATE CHILD LIFE EMPHASIS:

The University of Georgia Department of Child and Family Development and Georgia Health Sciences University (GHSU) have joined resources to provide an exciting and unique undergraduate child life curriculum. The challenging child life curriculum is organized into university core requirements, Child and Family Development courses, and professional courses. Students are based at UGA for the first three years of the program. The senior year is spent at GHSU in Augusta, Georgia.

Purpose

The purpose of the child life emphasis is to prepare students to work in health care settings with children and families. The University of Georgia/Georgia Health Sciences University (UGA/GHSU) Child Life Education and Training Program is an emphasis in the UGA Department of Child and Family Development.

Course Work

Students take courses at UGA for the first three years of the program. Courses include, but are not limited to the following topics:

- Child and Family Development
- Hospitalized Children and Families
- Exceptional Children and Families
- Parent Guidance and Child Guidance

During the senior year of this program, students participate in an internship program at GHSU where they take health care related courses, while completing over 1000 hours of clinical experience.

ABOUT GHSU AND CHILD LIFE

Georgia Health Sciences University

GHSU

Georgia Healthcare Sciences University is the health sciences research university of the state of Georgia. GHSU makes a commitment to the people of Georgia to educate and train health care professionals. The hospital and clinics consist of a 540-bed hospital and more than 80 specialty clinics. Georgia Health Sciences Children's Medical Center, a free-standing 149-bed facility, consists of a medical unit, surgical unit, psychiatry unit, pediatric intensive care, pediatric emergency room, neonatal intensive care, and numerous outpatient clinics. website: www.georgiahealth.edu

Department of Child and Adolescent Life

The Department of Child and Adolescent Life was established in November 1988. The department is comprised of a manager, Child Life Specialists, and a coordinator of school services. Child Life Specialists serve patients and families in the Children's Medical Center, intensive care unit, clinic and emergency express care units. Child and Adolescent Life is housed in the department of Pediatrics.

**MAJOR: CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
B.S.F.C.S. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS
COLLEGE OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES
WWW.FCS.UGA.EDU**

GENERAL EDUCATION CORE

I FOUNDATION COURSES (9 hours)

- 3 ENGL 1101 English Composition I
- 3 ENGL 1102 English Composition II
- 3 MATH 1101 Mathematical Modeling

II SCIENCES (7-8 hours)

Physical Sciences (3-4 hours)

- 3-4 Choose one Physical Sciences course

Life Sciences (4 hours)

- 4 BIOL 1103-1103L Basic Concepts in Biology

III QUANTITATIVE REASONING (3-4 hours)

- 3-4 MATH 1060 Mathematics of Decision Making **or** STAT 2000 Introductory Statistics

IV WORLD LANGUAGES, CULTURE, HUMANITIES AND THE ARTS (12 hours)

World Languages and Culture (9 hours)

- 9 Choose three World Languages and Culture Courses

Humanities and the Arts (3 hours)

- 3 SPCM 1100 Introduction to Public Speaking

V SOCIAL SCIENCES (9 hours)

- 3 HIST 2111 American History to 1865 **or** HIST 2112 American History Since 1865
- 3 POLS 1101 American Government
- 3 ANTH 1102 Introduction to Anthropology **or** PSYC 1101 Elementary Psychology **or** SOCI 1101 H Introductory Sociology

VI COURSES RELATED TO MAJOR (18 hours)

- 3 CHFD 2100 Development Within the Family
- 3 CHFD 2200 Introduction to Life Span Development
- 3 CHFD 2950-2950L Introduction to Child Development and Lab
- 3 FDNS 2100 **or** FDNS 2100H Human Nutrition and Food
- 3 HACE 2100 **or** HACE 2100H Family Economic Issues Through the Life Course
- 3 Three hours of Speech **or** Social Science **or** SPED 2000 Survey of Special Education

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS, REQUIRED COURSES, AND MAJOR ELECTIVE COURSES “C” (2.0) grade or higher required. A baccalaureate degree program must require at least 21 semester hours of upper division courses in the major field and at least 39 semester hours of upper division work overall.

Major Requirements (13 hours)

- 1 CHFD 2000 Introduction to Family and Consumer Sciences
- 3 CHFD 3110 Professional Development/Community Activities
- 3 CHFD 3700 Adolescence and Young Adulthood Survey
- 3 CHFD 3920 Issues in Family Systems
- 3 CHFD 4860 Parent Education and Child Guidance

REQUIRED COURSES (12 hours)

- 3 CHFD 3710 Midlife/Elder Years Survey
- 3 CHFD 4330 Diversity in Human Development and Family Systems
- 3 FDNS 4050 Optimal Nutrition for the Life Span
- 3 HACE 3100 Introductory Consumer Economics **or** HACE 3200 Introduction to Personal Finance

May 1, 2011

MAJOR ELECTIVES (18 hours)

Choose 18 hours from Group A and Group B, including at least 9 hours from Group A courses:

Group A

- 3 CHFD 3900 Prenatal and Infant Development
- 3 CHFD 3930 Development of Interpersonal Relationships
- 3 CHFD 4080 Advanced Human Development
- 3 CHFD 4090 Advanced Infant Development
- 3 CHFD 4130 Family Policy
- 3 CHFD(HACE) 4500 Aging and the Family
- 3 CHFD(SOCI) 4610 The Family
- 3 CHFD 4620 Women in the Family and Society
- 3 CHFD 4810 Hospitalized Child and the Family
- 3 CHFD 4850 Family Development
- 3 CHFD 4870 Human Sexuality Across the Life Span
- 3 CHFD 4880 Family Life Education Methodology
- 1-3 CHFD 4900 Seminar in CFD (*repeatable*)
- 3 CHFD 5100 Family Intervention
- 3 CHFD 5110 Research Methods in CFD
- 3 CHFD 5120 Observation and Assessment Techniques
- 3 CHFD 5130 Creative Activities for Young Children
- 9 CHFD 5140 Group Programs for Young Children
- 3 CHFD 5160L Administration of Children's Programs
- 3 CHDS 5170 Language Literacy and Numeracy
Development Birth through Five
- 3 CHFD 5500 Aging and Social Inequalities

Group B

- 1-12 CHFD 3010 Directed Study in CFD
- 3 CHFD 4960H Directed Reading and/or Projects (Honors)
- 3 CHFD 4970H Directed Reading and/or Projects (Honors)
- 3 CHFD 4980H Directed Reading and/or Projects (Honors)
- 3 CHFD 4990H Honors Thesis
- 3 CHFD 5710 Study Tour in CFD
- 1 CHFD 5900 Pre-internship Orientation
- 1 CHFD 5901 Policy Internship Orientation
- 1-12 CHFD 5910 Internship in CFD (General)
- 1-12 CHFD 5920 Internship in CFD
(Programs for Children Under 6)
- 1-12 CHFD 5930 Internship in CFD (Family Life Education)
- 1-12 CHFD 5940 Internship in CFD (Special Needs)
- 1-12 CHFD 5950 Internship in CFD (Administration)
- 3 IHDD 4000 Critical Issues in Disability Studies
- 3 IHDD 5970 Interdisciplinary Collaboration in the
Context of Disability

GENERAL ELECTIVES: 17 hours any level (Consult Major Advisor)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION PEDB 1 hr. required

Total Required Hours 121

CHILD LIFE AREA OF EMPHASIS

CONSULT CFD ADVISOR FOR PURSUING AREAS OF EMPHASIS

Entrance Requirements: Advisor Approval. Completion of Core Areas I-V. Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Completion of Area VI courses with a grade of "C" (2.0) or higher. Interview and acceptance by Georgia Health Sciences University (Augusta).

REQUIRED COURSES (UGA) (17 hours)

- 3 CHFD 3710 Midlife/Elder Years Survey
- 3 CHFD 3900 Prenatal and Infant Development
- 3 CHFD 3930 Development of Interpersonal Relationships
- 3 CHFD 4810 Hospitalized Child and the Family
- 3 CHFD 5130 Creative Activities for Young Children
- 2 CHFD 5910 Internship in Child and Family Development

SENIOR YEAR SPENT AT GEORGIA HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY (AUGUSTA) (30 hours)

(Courses below or comparable courses depending on current course offerings).

FALL SEMESTER

- 1 AHS 3610 Ethics for Allied Health Professionals
- 11 AHS 4451 Child Life Clinic (Medical Terminology)
- 3 AHS 4453 Learning in Family Environments

SPRING SEMESTER

- 15 AHS 4452 Child Life Clinic Internship

Upon completion of Fall and Spring Semesters at Georgia Health Sciences University, send an official transcript to: UGA Undergraduate Admissions

Physical Education PEDB 1 hr. required

Total Required Hours 121

May 1, 2011

SENIOR YEAR AT THE GEORGIA HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY (GHSU)

This year is a combination of course work related to health care and clinical experience. The Child Life Clinics I and II provide students an opportunity to complete over 1000 hours of clinical work with children and families in health care settings. Along with their onsite work at the GHSU Children's Medical Center, a 149-bed facility, students will have opportunities to:

- ◆ survey current literature in health care
- ◆ discuss issues and trends
- ◆ provide preparation and therapeutic play opportunities
- ◆ provide procedural support and distraction during procedures
- ◆ plan and participate in community outreach activities
- ◆ visit other child life facilities
- ◆ work as a member of the healthcare team
- ◆ develop, plan, and assess therapeutic interventions with hospitalized patients
- ◆ participate in weekly student seminars
- ◆ rotate through various different clinical settings
- ◆ promote family centered care through clinical practice and coursework

WHAT DO I DO IN THE CHILD LIFE CLINIC?

During your clinical experience you will go through various rotations. In each rotation you will be interning under a different Child Life Specialist. The four areas are:

- 1) Hematology/Oncology
- 2) General Pediatrics
- 3) Surgery
- 4) Emergency Room/PICU (Pediatric Intensive Care Unit)

In each rotation you will be:

- ◆ planning and implementing therapeutic activities for children
- ◆ writing chart notes
- ◆ assisting in preparing children for procedures
- ◆ planning and implementing activities in developmental play groups
- ◆ planning and assisting in group projects and special events
- ◆ supporting children and families through painful procedures

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

To apply for the Child Life emphasis, students must (1) have at least a **cumulative** 3.0 GPA, (2) completed CHFD 4810 Hospitalized Child and the Family, (3) shadowed a certified Child Life Specialist for at least 8 hours, (4) have three letters of recommendation, one of which must be from an individual in academia (professor form provided), (5) participate in an interview with the GHSU staff, and (6) be formally admitted into the Department of Child and Family Development and the Child Life Program. Only a limited number of students are accepted into the joint program in Child Life. The application and admission process into the program, including interviewing with GHSU staff, usually takes place once each year.

In addition, transfer students must complete at least 30 hours at the University of Georgia to graduate. The 30 hours taken at Georgia Health Sciences University do not count towards the 30 hours required by The University of Georgia.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Contact Julie Patterson at 542-4896 or e-mail her at jpatt@uga.edu to discuss the undergraduate degree in Child and Family Development. Dr. Charlotte Wallinga conducts periodic information meetings each semester concerning the Child Life emphasis.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ's)

Q. How do I apply to the program?

A. Students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 with at least 30 hours of class work, be formally admitted into the Department of Child and Family Development and have taken or be enrolled in CHFD 4810 Hospitalized Child and the Family. Students must also fill out an application and any application requirements, along with participating in an interview with GHSU staff. In addition, students must have completed at least 8 hours of shadowing a certified Child Life Specialist. The Child Life Specialist must provide a letter and documentation of this shadowing experience. Please keep in mind that you must apply and be accepted into the program to be considered for the Child Life emphasis; you cannot transfer into the Child Life program. Many students have fulfilled these requirements and are eligible to apply by their sophomore or junior year.

Q. How many positions are available each year?

A. Usually four to five positions. One intern for each Child Life Specialist at GHSU.

Q. Does HOPE still pay for my schooling?

A. Yes. Sometimes the process is a bit confusing but the paperwork eventually gets figured out.

Q. What school am I actually in while at GHSU?

A. You are in the School of Allied Health Sciences at GHSU and are considered a transient student but graduate from UGA.

Q. Do I still get UGA football tickets?

A. No. You are not technically a student at UGA for this year and will not receive student football tickets because your student fees will not have been paid.

Q. Where is Georgia Health Sciences University?

A. It is located in Augusta, Georgia, about 100 miles (approximately 2 hours) from UGA.

Q. Where will I live while in Augusta?

A. There are student dorms available, but most interns rent an apartment. There are many apartments available in Augusta and they are not difficult to rent. Once you have been accepted at GHSU and visit Augusta for orientation, the current interns and Child Life Specialist Student Coordinator will provide you with information about housing options.

Q. What if I am almost ready to graduate and I just heard about Child Life?

A. As applicants for the undergraduate emphasis in Child Life are usually chosen during their sophomore or junior year of college, it may be in your best interest to graduate with your current degree and consider an emphasis in Child Life at the graduate level. However, contact your advisor about your current program of study and discuss your possible options.

Q. I am now in my junior year at a nearby college. How do I go about gaining admission into your Child Life Program?

A. Transfer students must complete at least 30 hours at The University of Georgia. The 30 hours taken at Georgia Healthcare Sciences University do not count toward the 30 hours required by The University of Georgia. Therefore, one should consider the feasibility of gaining 30 hours after transferring to The University of Georgia. Also, applicants for the Child Life Program are usually selected through an interview process during their sophomore or junior year at The University of Georgia. Therefore, it may be more feasible to pursue the Child Life emphasis at the graduate level.

Q. What are the requirements for becoming a CCLS?

A. You must have 1) a Bachelor's degree or higher, 2) a minimum of 10 courses in child life, child development, child and family studies, or closely related areas, and 3) 480 hours of child life clinical experience (internship) supervised by a certified child life specialist, and 4) pass the Child Life certification exam. For more information about certification go to the CLC website at www.childlife.org and click on certification.

Q. Where can I learn more about Child Life in general to see if this is an occupation that interests me?

A. The Child Life Council has a website at www.childlife.org that you can visit to learn more about the Child Life Profession. Also, the Child and Family Development course 4810 Hospitalized Child and the Family provides an overview of Child Life principles and developmental and psychosocial issues of hospitalized children and families.

Q. What degree will I graduate with if I am in the Child Life Emphasis?

A. After completing all the specified requirements, students in the Child Life emphasis will graduate with a Baccalaureate degree from the University of Georgia in Child and Family Development with a Child Life Emphasis.

WHAT MAKES THIS JOINT PROGRAM UNIQUE?

- ◆ To become a certified CLS you need to complete 480 hours of clinical experience and pass the certification exam. This program offers at least 1000 hours of experience, which is more than twice the experience needed.
- ◆ You gain knowledge and experience in many different areas of Child Life (out-patient and in-patient, surgery, emergency room, general pediatrics, hematology, oncology, pediatric intensive care) whereas you may only work in one specialized area in other internships.
- ◆ You have the opportunity to take classes both at UGA and GHSU.
- ◆ This program utilizes a team approach to learning. Students benefit from day-to-day contact with various members of the healthcare team.
- ◆ Through this program you can work on completing some of the professional requirements for becoming a Child Life Professional while still in your undergraduate study.

SUMMARY

The University of Georgia (UGA) and Georgia Health Sciences University (GHSU) have collaborated to provide an innovative child life curriculum. This program allows students to complete three years of course work at UGA and one year of course work and over 1000 clinical hours at GHSU. Thus, a truly integrated curriculum has been designed that uses a multidisciplinary team approach to training future child life specialists.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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