



CAREER TRACK: CHILD LIFE SPECIALIST

“In both healthcare and community settings, Certified Child Life Specialists help infants, children, youth and families cope with the stress and uncertainty of acute and chronic illness, injury, trauma, disability, loss and bereavement. They provide evidence-based, developmentally and psychologically appropriate interventions including therapeutic play, preparation for procedures, and education to reduce fear, anxiety, and pain.”
 ~ ChildLife.org

Suggested 4-Year Plan^a

Year 1 (34 credit hours)

Fall Semester (16 credit hours)	Spring Semester (18 credit hours)
UK Core: Composition & Communication I (elective)	UK Core: Composition & Communication II (elective)
UK Core: Global Dynamics (elective)	UK Core: Arts and Creativity (elective)
SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology	PSY 100: Introduction to Psychology
PHI 120: Introduction to Logic	DHN 101: Human Nutrition and Wellness
GEN 100: Issues in Agriculture, Food, and Environment	FAM 250: Dating and Long-Term Romantic Relationships
UK 101: Academic Orientation ^(1 credit hour)	Lower-level Elective ^a

Year 2 (30 credit hours)

Fall Semester (15 credit hours)	Spring Semester (15 credit hours)
STA 210: Introduction to Statistical Reasoning	UK Core: Natural, Physical, and Mathematical Sciences (elective)
ECO 201: Principles of Economics I	COM 252: Introduction to Interpersonal Communication
FAM 251: Personal and Family Finance	FAM 254: Life Course Human Development
FAM 252: Introduction to Relationships, Marriages, & Families	FAM 360: Introduction to Family Intervention
FAM 253: Human Sexuality	Lower-level Elective ^a

Year 3 (30 credit hours)

Fall Semester (15 credit hours)	Spring Semester (15 credit hours)
IEC 255: Child Development	FAM 354: Contemporary Family Diversity
PHI 380: Death, Dying & the Quality of Life	FAM 390: Introduction to Research Methods
FAM 357: Adolescent Development	FAM 473: Family Life Education
Professional Support ^b	Professional Support ^b
Professional Support ^b	Professional Support ^b

Year 4 (28 credit hours)

Fall Semester (13 credit hours)	Spring Semester (15 credit hours)
FAM 301: Supporting Hospitalized Children	FAM 302: Learning and Healing through Play
FAM 497: Pre-internship in Family Sciences ^(1 credit hour)	FAM 500: Child Life Practicum
Professional Support ^b	Professional Support ^b
Professional Support ^b	Upper-Level Elective ^b
Upper-Level Elective ^c	Upper-Level Elective ^c

Note. UK requires a minimum of 120 credit hours, including a minimum of 45 upper-level courses (i.e., those numbered 300 or higher) to graduate. FAM majors satisfy UK’s graduation composition and communication requirement (GCCR) by the combination of FAM 357, FAM 360, and FAM 390. Certification as a Child Life Specialist also requires a 600-hour internship that is not part of (not required for) this degree program; it can be completed while in the degree program, independently, or while in a corresponding master’s-level program.

^a**Lower-Level Elective Suggestions:** CLA 131: Medical Terminology, ANA 209: Principles of Human Anatomy

^b**Professional Support Suggestions:** Minor in communication, health advocacy, health promotion, or psychology.

^c**Upper-Level Elective Suggestions**

- A-E 515: Introduction to Art Therapy
- ANT 440: Anthropological Perspectives on Child Growth
- CED 515: Medical & Psychosocial Aspects of Disabilities: Physical Disability
- CED 520: Foundations of Professional Counseling
- CED 530: Social and Cultural Foundations of Counseling
- CED 550: Ethics for the Counseling Profession
- CLM 353: Ethics in Healthcare
- CNU 500: Integrative Care for Health Sciences
- COM 313: Interpersonal Communication in Close Relationships
- COM 317: Communication in Family and Marital Relationships
- EDS 522: Children and Families
- EDS 530: Moderate and Severe Disabilities
- EDS 522: Children & Families
- FAM 473: Family Life Education
- FAM 502: Families and Children Under Stress
- HHS 353: Ethics in Healthcare
- HHS 362: Interdisciplinary Health Advocacy
- HHS 453: Cultural Competencies in Healthcare
- HSP 355: Sociology of Health and Illness
- IEC 557: Infant Development
- NUR 511: End of Life Care
- PHI 305: Health Care Ethics
- PHI 380: Death, Dying & the Quality of Life
- PSY 311: Learning and Cognition
- PSY 323: Developmental Psychology
- PSY 331: Psychology of Adjustment
- SOC 334: Sociology of Families
- SOC 551: Health, Illness, and Disabilities
- SW 520: Understanding the Diverse Needs of Children & Adolescents

Current UK students: Please login to myUK.uky.edu to access your personalized major map and degree audit via the Graduation Planning System (GPS). This major map is the suggested curriculum map for completion of the degree program and positioning yourself for the identified career track for those beginning college-level coursework; it is not a personalized audit based on your completed coursework.