

Child Life Specialist Co-Major

The Child Life Specialist (CLS) Co-major includes all the coursework required by the Association of Child Life Professionals. Students who complete this Co-major are eligible to complete an official Child Life Specialist internship, to take the Child Life Professional Certification Exam, and to apply for certification by the Association of Child Life Professionals.

Certified Child Life Specialists often work in pediatric hospitals but may also work in other spaces (e.g., courtrooms, funeral homes or bereavement services) where children may experience trauma. The field of Child Life is evidence-based, providing developmentally appropriate interventions (e.g., therapeutic play, education, self-care, stress reduction, distraction) with children and families. As members of a child's care team, Child Life Specialists serve important roles in improving the illness- or trauma-related experiences of both patients and their families.

The CLS Co-major must be paired with a student's primary major; students in the CLS Co-major will need to meet the requirements for their primary major and all the Miami Plan requirements. Students in the CLS Co-major cannot complete the Child Studies and Youth Development minor or the Family Relationships minor.

Students must complete an application to be admitted to the Child Life Specialist Co-major. The application is available at: <https://miamioh.edu/ehs/academics/departments/fsw/academics/majors/family-science/child-life/undergraduate/index.html>

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required Courses		
FSW 245	Children and Families: Ages Conception - 12	3
FSW 261	Diverse Family Systems Across the Life Cycle	3
FSW 295	Research and Evaluation Methods	3
FSW 318	Child Life Theory and Practice	3
FSW 340	Internship	0-20
FSW 435	Death Studies	3
FSW 445	Therapeutic Play for Child Life Specialists	3
FSW 481	Adolescent Development in Diverse Families: Ages 13-25	3
Select nine credit hours of the following:		9
ART 194	Introduction to Art Therapy	
BIO 161	Principles of Human Physiology	
DST 272	Introduction to Disability Studies	
DST 312	American Deaf Cultures	
FSW 415	Culturally Responsive Engagement	
FSW 451	Interpersonal Violence	
FSW 455	Child Abuse & Neglect: Assessment & Child Safety	

FSW 465	Child Abuse & Neglect: Permanency and Well-being	
FSW 475	Family Theories	
GHS 101	Gateway to Global Health	
KNH 125	Introduction to Public Health	
KNH 209	Medical Terminology for Health Professionals	
KNH 245	Issues of Health & Wellness for the Young Child	
KNH 424	Public Health Disparities Past and Current	
PHL 375	Medical Ethics	
PSY 111	Introduction to Psychology	
PSY 242	Introduction to Psychopathology	
Total Credit Hours		30-50

NOTE: Students pursuing the Social Work major must have at least 12 distinct credit hours that are not included in the Social Work major.