



SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN HEALTHCARE

Mizzou's HDFBS Bachelor's Degree in Child Life

prepares students to support children's development and coping within the contexts of pediatric illness, injury, disability, and grief in healthcare and community settings



PROMOTE OPTIMAL GROWTH THROUGH CHALLENGING EXPERIENCES

Assess the psychosocial needs of children and families to minimize the negative developmental effects of stressful medical and life events



DEVELOP EFFECTIVE CHILD AND FAMILY INTERVENTIONS

Utilize evidence-based practice in therapeutic play, psychological preparation, and coping skills instruction to reduce stress related to health care and loss



PROVIDE FAMILY-CENTERED CARE

Collaborate with families using a strengths-based approach to empower patients, enhance coping, and support relationships

DIVERSE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates work with children, youth, and families in a variety of settings and roles

- Hospital inpatient & outpatient care units
- Pediatric rehabilitation facilities
- Early developmental intervention agencies
- Specialized camps for children
- Bereavement centers and funeral homes
- Home health and hospice care
- Children's crisis centers

More Career Information

<https://www.childlife.org>

HANDS-ON PROGRAM THAT SUPPORTS YOUR GOALS

Bachelor of Science

In the Child Life program, you will:

- Understand and apply child development principles
- Develop self-reflective practice and cultural humility
- Build clinical skills through volunteer, practicum, and internship experiences
- Complete HDFBS and MU general education requirements and electives
- Receive internship application and interview support
- Be prepared for the national Child Life Professional Certification Exam

LEARN MORE

hdfs.missouri.edu/undergrad.html



Human Development
and Family Science
University of Missouri



“I have used my student volunteer and practicum experience as a guide for how to best support the volunteers and students I now supervise. I am able to... transfer that over into my teaching style to better support others in preparing for practice and the exam.”

KRISTIN BROWN, CCLS | FORT MEYERS, FL
CHILD LIFE (BS) '13

Kristin prepares and supports children undergoing medical procedures in the Pediatric Sedation Center at Golisano Children’s Hospital of SW Florida, and serves in the ACLP’s Professional Mentor Program.



“I am constantly applying the skills and education that I obtained during my HDFS coursework ... I had a very supportive relationship with faculty who truly wanted to guide me in the right direction and were available for support at all times.”

JAMIE MARTIN, CCLS | CHICAGO, IL
CHILD LIFE (BS) '18

From minor illnesses, to major trauma and bereavement support, Jamie provides psychosocial care for children and families in the Emergency and Level 1 Trauma Center at Advocate Children’s Hospital.

CHILD LIFE IN HDFS - A SMART CHOICE

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES

- Practicum at University of Missouri Children’s Hospital
- 600 hour off-campus clinical internship
- Mentorship with CCLS instructors
- Research opportunities with faculty specializing in children’s health, trauma, and play

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- MU scholarships for first-time, transfer, and continuing undergraduate students
- Federal financial aid eligible
- HES and HDFS scholarship opportunities available

ENGAGING COURSEWORK

- Courses in development across childhood/adolescence
- Child life theory and practice
- Children’s play
- Multicultural study of children and families



Interns build practical skills in clinical settings

ABOUT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & FAMILY SCIENCE

As human beings, we learn and develop throughout the lifespan, and we do so through interactions with family members, teachers, schools, peers, social media, and romantic partners. The recognition of this lifetime of growth embedded in social interactions is what defines Human Development and Family Science (HDFS) as a field, and what drives our faculty and students to better understand human development and family functioning.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

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IMPROVING THE LIVES OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES.

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