

College of Charleston

Master of Science in Child Life



COLLEGE *of*
CHARLESTON

Master of Science in Child Life Program

2-year program

- Full-time
- 2 summer classes
- Internship integrated into second spring

Set coursework

Grounded in child development, medical issues, family systems, play, & more

Cohort Model

- **10-11** students per cohort
- Second-year students act as mentors to first year students

Collaboration between CofC & MUSC

Coursework takes place at the College and **integrated clinical experience** takes place at the new Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital

Carefully structured

Structured to best prepare students for the competitive process of **internship selection** and for **passing the Child Life Certification Examination** to secure their first position as a child life specialist

Courses

Year 1- Fall

- Introduction to Child Life
- Psychological Aspects of Illness, Trauma, and Hospitalization
- Advanced Child Development

Year 1- Summer

- Program Development and Practicum in Child Life
- Health Communication
or
- International Experience of Child Life and Pediatric Psychosocial Care

Year 1- Spring

- Therapeutic Play for Child Life Specialists
- Death and Dying
- Research Methods

Year 2- Fall

- Family Issues
- Infant Development
- Working with Children with Special Needs/ Developmental Disabilities

Alumni Testimonials



Sammi, Class of 2017

"I can't imagine where I would be in my career as a CCLS, if I had not received my Master of Science in Child Life from the College of Charleston. The combination of in-depth theoretical coursework, integration of a practicum at MUSC, a play-based philosophy, and the partnerships and volunteer opportunities with various organizations **vastly prepared me for my internship and career.**"



LK, Class of 2019

"The child life program at CofC provided incredible and necessary groundwork in preparation for internship, and my first job as a CCLS. The program, curriculum, and practicum opened my eyes to a wide range of psychosocial issues that child life specialists are faced with, whether it's a child's fear of needles, or a family in need of end-of-life emotional support. **The program has truly influenced my practice as a new CCLS and helped me remember the core foundations of empowering children and families as they navigate the healthcare system.**"

How to Prepare for Application Process: Admissions Criteria



Experience with Children

Minimum 100 documented hours of formal volunteer experience with children, preferably in a child life setting



Academic Performance

Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a **recommended GPA of at least 3.0** in the final 60 hours of undergraduate coursework



Relevant Coursework

Infant, child, and adolescent development; child and family issues; childhood medical conditions; health communication; play; developmental psychology; child life theory



Interest & Passion for Child Life

This should be reflected in the candidate's personal statement

Important Websites

- **CofC MSCL Program Website**

childlife.cofc.edu

- **CofC MSCL Social Media**



@cofcchildlife



@CofC.ChildLife

- **Program Director Contact Information**

Dr. Susan Simonian
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