

New Graduate Program (Majors, Sequences, Certificates) Proposal
Illinois State University - Graduate Curriculum Committee

Program Department Family and Consumer Sciences

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Version 6 **ID** 114

Title of New Program Child Life Sequence

Proposed Starting Catalog Year 2021-2022

Associated Course Proposal(s):

New Graduate Course proposal FCS 436 titled *Value of Play in Human Development*

New Graduate Course proposal FCS 463 titled *Bereavement, Grief, and Loss*

New Graduate Course proposal FCS 492 titled *Advanced Child Development Applications*

1. Proposed Action

New Major

✓ New Sequence

New Certificate

More than 50% of courses in this program are Distance Education

Sequence Major

Family & Consumer Sciences

2. Provide Graduate Catalog copy for new program.

Child Life Graduate Sequence

The Family and Consumer Sciences graduate program is registered with the Association for Child Life Professionals. The program prepares students to enter the child life profession by providing ample opportunities to increase their capacity for inquiry, logical thinking, critical analysis, and synthesis.

This 30 hour sequence requires

- 6 hours of core coursework: FCS 445 and 497
- 18 hours of Child Life content coursework: FCS 492, 436, 463, 403, 404, 406
- Plus Option 1 or 2

Option 1 – Thesis:

- 6 hours: FCS 499

Option 2 – Non-Thesis:

- 3 hours of electives
 - 3 hours: FCS 400 Independent Study: Capstone Project in Child Life
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3. Provide a description for the proposed program.

The child life sequence prepares students to enter the child life profession. The sequence has a thesis and non-thesis option. Both options require the completion of 30 credit hours. Students completing the non-thesis option will complete a 3-hour capstone project.

4. Provide a rationale of proposed program.

The objective of this proposal is to move from a concentration to a sequence.

- The rationale for this new sequence is to provide distinction for students studying Child Life within the Family and Consumer Sciences graduate program.
- The notation of the sequence on the students' transcripts will make graduates more competitive for internships as it will communicate the specific focus of their coursework.
- In addition, the sequence name will include key words that may be required by employers and certification granters (i.e., child life).
- Furthermore, having a sequence distinction will allow the program to apply for endorsement through the Association for Child Life Professionals (ACLP), the national professional organization for the field of child life. A specific sequence, major, or degree is required to apply for program endorsement as it ensures course requirements are met versus elective coursework within a more general degree program.
- The sequence name will promote visibility to students searching for programs with discipline (or career)-specific terms.

5. Describe the expected effects of the proposed program on existing campus programs (if applicable).

The proposed sequence is not expected to have significant effects on existing campus programs. The enrollment is not expected to change, the primary effect will be the addition of a specific sequence, which is intended to increase visibility of the program and make graduates more competitive for jobs.

6. Describe the expected curricular changes required, including new courses. If proposals for new courses that will be or have been submitted, please reference those related proposals here:

Required courses: FCS 445 and 497 – no change in courses as currently offered in catalog

Currently available course: FCS 499 —currently available in the catalog, to be used in Child Life Program for students completing the thesis option

New option: FCS 400 Independent Study—currently available in the catalog, to be used in Child Life Program for Capstone Project in Child Life for students completing the non-thesis option

Child Life content courses:

FCS 492 Advanced Child Development—previously FCS 307, changed to a focus on birth through adolescence; FCS 307 will be eliminated in the future. (Proposal for FCS 492 submitted)

FCS 436 Value of Play in Human Development—dual listed as FCS 336, this requirement meets a specific requirement from the Association of Child Life Professionals (ACLP), the child life professional organization related to certification. It is dual listed to allow undergraduates the opportunity to meet the standards to apply for professional internship with a bachelor's degree which is the minimum standard within the profession. (Proposal for FCS 436 submitted)

FCS 463 Bereavement, Grief & Loss—dual listed as FCS 363, this requirement meets a specific requirement from the ACLP. It is dual listed to allow undergraduates the opportunity to meet the standards to apply for professional internship with a bachelor's degree which is the minimum standard within the profession. (Proposal for FCS 463 submitted)

FCS 403 Children in Healthcare Settings—Child Life course currently offered to graduate students, focuses on professional skills and preparation for child life internship and certification, not-dual listed

FCS 404 Seminar in Child Life Studies—Child Life course currently offered to graduate students, focuses on professional skills and preparation for child life internship and certification, not-dual listed

FCS 406 Psychosocial Care of Children & Families in Healthcare Settings—dual listed as FCS 306, this is the initial Child Life content course taught by a certified child life specialist. This requirement meets a specific requirement from the ACLP. It is dual listed to allow undergraduates the opportunity to meet the standards to apply for professional internship with a bachelor's degree which is the minimum standard within the profession. Proposal previously approved for dual credit.

7. Anticipated funding needs and source of funds.

None. The proposed sequence involves no new coursework and requires no additional funding, faculty, or facilities.

8. **No** Does this program count for teacher education?

9. **The following questions must be answered.**

Yes Have you confirmed that Milner Library has sufficient resources for the proposed program?

N.A. Have letter(s) of concurrence from affected departments/schools been obtained?
A departments/school is affected if it has a program with significant overlap or if it teaches a required or elective course in the program.

