Department Mission

The goals of the family and child studies (FCS) program are to provide students with exceptional classroom and research experiences, support students through practicum and internship experiences and prepare students to work with diverse populations.

As the first graduate-level child life academic program in Texas, the program also strives to continue to offer its exceptional training from Certified Child Life Specialists that combined have nearly 50 years of clinical experience.

Concentrations Offered

- Program Administration and Evaluation
- Child Life Specialist
- Research in Family and Human Development

With small class sizes, friendly staff and professors who truly care about my future, I knew that I had made the right choice in choosing the FCS program at Texas State. I couldn’t imagine myself anywhere else.

- Leslie Wells, M.S. ’17

School of Family and Consumer Sciences

601 University Dr.
San Marcos, TX 78666-4684
512.245.2155 | MSFamilyandChild@txstate.edu

Students are prepared for academic, research and applied careers that address the needs of diverse families and individuals across the lifespan.
Why choose Texas State?
The family and child studies (FCS) program offers a flexible model of graduate training that allows students to develop individualized degree plans catered to career goals, provides opportunities to conduct research, supports cross-disciplinary education and emphasizes mentorship and professional opportunities to support students’ development and career placement.

Students are accepted to top Ph.D. programs and receive various employment opportunities. Child life students have notable success securing internships and employment as Certified Child Life Specialists.

Course Work
The 37-credit hour program is designed for students interested in research and applied careers. The program currently offers three concentrations: program administration and evaluation, child life specialist, and research in family and human development. All concentrations provide advanced educational experiences in the content areas of research methodology, theories related to families and children, child development, and current issues impacting families and children.

The program administration and evaluation concentration provides applied experiences as well as knowledge and expertise to administer and evaluate programs related to children and families. The child life specialist concentration gives students the foundation to become a Certified Child Life Specialist. The research in family and human development concentration prepares students for doctoral programs and research careers in the field of family and human development.

Faculty
Faculty have established research programs in social and cultural processes, family relationships, infant, child, adolescent and young adult development, gender, teacher-child relationships, and gerontology. Faculty members’ research has been published in top-tier journals including Child Development, Developmental Psychology, Family Process and Journal of Family Psychology. Faculty research has been supported by the Department of Health and Human Services, The Greater Texas Foundation and the National Endowment for Humanities.

Career Options
Students will find a variety of career options available after graduation including:

- Child Life Specialists in hospitals and community-based nonprofit organizations
- leadership roles in nonprofit agencies and early childhood education programs
- research and project coordinators in governmental agencies
- faculty members at community college

Students are also prepared to continue their studies in doctoral programs.

Important Deadlines*
Admissions
Priority Fall: December 1
Fall: February 15
Spring: No admission
Summer: No admission

Funding: Scholarships, Fellowships and Assistantships
Applications must be complete by the priority deadline to be considered for funding.

How to Apply
For information regarding admission requirements and submission instructions, please visit:
gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply

*International applicants can view specific deadlines and requirements at:
gradcollege.txstate.edu/international

For the most up-to-date information on deadlines, admission requirements and funding, visit:
gradcollege.txstate.edu/programs/fcs

Brochure Information Current as of August 2018