Department Mission

The goals of the program in family and child studies 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

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, current M.S. student, Child Life Specialist track at Texas State University

Students are prepared for academic, research and applied careers that address the needs of diverse families and individuals across the lifespan.

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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 program administration and evaluation concentration trains students to gain the knowledge and skills to administer and evaluate programs related to children and families. Students complete 37 hours of course work including core family and child studies, program administration and evaluation courses and electives.

The child life specialist concentration trains students for a career as a child life specialist, experts in child development who promote effective coping to children. They also provide emotional support for families, encouraging optimum development of children facing a broad range of challenging experiences, particularly those related to healthcare and hospitalization. Students complete 37 hours of course work including core family and child studies, child life courses and electives.

Faculty
Faculty have established research programs in social and cultural processes, family relationships, infant, child, adolescent and young adult development, gender and teacher-child relationships. 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 bodies
- faculty members at community college

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

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

Funding: Scholarships, Fellowships and Assistantships
For scholarship, fellowship or assistantship information, review our web page: gradcollege.txstate.edu/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 information on deadlines, admission requirements and funding, visit: gradcollege.txstate.edu/programs/fcs