The master of science in family and child studies (FCS) at Texas State University is an applied program that provides graduate-level study addressing the needs of families and children. We offer two tracks: program administration and evaluation or child life specialist.

Our program administration and evaluation track requires 37 hours of course work and offers a wide range of courses to prepare students for various career options working with families and children. Students will gain knowledge related to program administration and evaluation, theories of child and family development, as well as child development. In addition, this track allows students to develop a plan of study that best fits personal and professional goals.

Our child life specialist track (37 hours) is the first graduate-level child life academic program in Texas. Child life specialists are experts in child development who promote effective coping through play, preparation, education and self-expression activities. They provide emotional support for families and encourage optimum development of children facing a broad range of challenging experiences, particularly those related to healthcare and hospitalization.
Course Work
Core classes are offered in the evenings and online to accommodate your schedule.

Core courses include:
• Introduction to the Graduate Program in FCS
• Advanced Child Development
• Research Design and Methodology in FCS
• Advanced Theory in FCS
• Seminar: Issues in FCS

Depending on the track, students will have between six and 12 hours of electives in a variety of fields (counseling, psychology, social work, sociology and special education).

In addition to the required courses listed above, students pursuing the program administration and evaluation track are required to take Program Evaluation in FCS, Advanced Program Administration, and Practicum in Family and Child Studies I and II.

In addition to the required courses listed above, students pursuing the child life track are required to take Hospitalized Child: Child Life Specialist, Advanced Methods in Child Life, and Internship in Child Life. A child life internship is a full-time, nonpaid internship required by the Child Life Council that should be completed in the final year of your master’s program. While the FCS program will help prepare you for your internship, interns are selected by the individual hospitals. Therefore, internships are not guaranteed. In fact, with a limited number of internships available, it might be necessary to apply to hospitals outside of Central Texas.

Thesis Options
In addition to a track, you can choose the thesis or non-thesis option. With the non-thesis option, you will complete two practicum experiences (or a child life internship if pursuing the child life track). If you choose the thesis option, you will complete one practicum (or a child life internship) and six credit hours of thesis.

Admission Policy
All applicants must hold a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited university. A minimum of a 3.0 GPA on the last 60 undergraduate semester hours of letter-grade work earned before receipt of a bachelor’s (plus any previously completed graduate or professional work) is required.

Each applicant must submit the following to the Graduate College:
• the online Graduate College application through ApplyTexas
• application fee
• one official transcript from each college or university attended
• an official Graduate Record Exam (GRE) with a preferred score of 285 and no less than 145 on the verbal section and 140 on the quantitative section. See www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/fcs.html for details about GRE requirements.
• three letters of reference (on recommendation form)
• a 500-word statement of purpose
• résumé

Visit www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply for access to the online application. Applications for the program administration and evaluation track must be submitted by June 15 for the fall semester, October 15 for the spring semester, and April 15 for the summer semester. Child life track students are admitted only in the fall with an application deadline of March 1.

Career Options
With a master of science in FCS, you will find a variety of career paths open to you. The following jobs are held by some of our graduates:
• child life specialist in hospital setting
• program director at family support and child abuse prevention project
• child life specialist with community-based nonprofit organization
• research and project coordinator for the Texas Department of State Health Services
• faculty member at local community college
• extension agent with the Texas Cooperative Extension Service
• administrator of an early childhood education program with a U.S. military base in Europe
• research associate for the Senate Research Office
• caseworker with Operation Homefront, a nonprofit support program for military families
• assistant education director for early care and education program

Financial Assistance
To be considered for a School of Family and Consumer Sciences scholarship and/or graduate assistantship, contact the school directly.

For more information about scholarships, financial aid and application deadlines, visit the Graduate College website at www.gradcollege.txstate.edu and click on Financing Your Graduate Education. Please note that program admission priority deadlines must be met in order to be considered for scholarships, fellowships and assistantships.

Contact
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