

HARDING UNIVERSITY

Child Life Specialist

Department of Family and Consumer Sciences
College of Sciences



Olen Hendrix

Degree: B.S. in Child Life

Contact:

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Certification

Child life specialists are skilled professionals. They adhere to a code of ethics and standards established by the Child Life Council, a national professional organization which also administers the rigorous process for obtaining the Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS) credential. All Certified Child Life Specialists must complete a supervised 480-hour clinical internship, pass an examination, and adhere to a minimum standard for continued professional development in order to maintain their certification.

Description of Major

This degree plan offers a strong background in child development and family systems. The course content for this program aims to promote effective coping through play, preparation, education, and self-expression activities appropriate for children. Many of the courses include applications not only for clinical hospital settings, but for other facets of the field such as court and foster care systems, trauma teams, bereavement support services, and others. This degree plan also involves an intense study of family-centered care in a variety of settings. A practicum experience where students choose a healthcare program from which to gain first hand exposure to the field is required.

Outside the Classroom

Students are encouraged to join the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences and the Arkansas Affiliate. This student organization sponsors trips to state and national conferences where students can interact with professionals in the field. High-achieving students may be selected for membership in Kappa Omicron Nu, an honorary society that recognizes scholarship in the field of family and consumer sciences. Harding's chapter of KON is Nu Delta. The professional associations and honor societies provide excellent opportunities for students to develop leadership skills.

**Bachelor of Sciences Degree
Child Life Specialist (CHLF)**

REQUIREMENTS	HOURS
Liberal Arts:	47
Student must take PSY 201 and SOC 203 . These are counted in the hours required for the major.	
FCS Program Foundations:	6
FCS 100, 205, 400	
Family and Consumer Sciences Core:	62
BDOC 354, FCS 251, 267 (must be taken for 3 credit hours to meet program requirements), 322, 323, 349, 352, 374, 375, 378, 391, 425, 426, 430, 461; HED 202; IS 01; PSY 201; SOC 203; SWK 395, 402, 410;	
Electives:	7
Remaining Bible:	6
TOTAL HOURS	128

Employment Opportunities

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. Understanding that a child's wellbeing depends on the support of the family, child life specialists provide information, support and guidance to parents, siblings, and other family members. They also play a vital role in educating caregivers, administrators, and the general public about the needs of children under stress.

Examples of job titles include:

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| Child Life Specialist | Coordinator of Educational Programs |
| Child Life Specialist I | Creative Arts/Child Life Pediatrics |
| Child Life Assistant | Crisis Nursery |
| College/University Teacher | Curriculum Developer |
| Community Relations Representative | Director of Community Center |
| Consultant | Disability Counselor |

JUST TO NAME A FEW!