



Eligibility Requirements for Exams After January 2019 and Before 2022

These eligibility requirements are for exams taking place after January 2019 and before 2022. If you do not plan to take the exam during that time, please visit <http://www.childlife.org/certification/students> to find the requirements for your timeline.

Effective January 1, 2019, candidates must meet the following requirements by the exam registration deadline for the exam administration for which they are applying.

1. Minimum of a Bachelor's Degree

Candidates must complete a minimum of a bachelor's degree (in any field of study) or the international equivalent.

2. Coursework

Candidates must either

- a. Graduate from an ACLP-endorsed degree program

OR

- b. Successfully complete 10 college courses in the following content areas:

Click on the subject area links for more details.

Minimum Number of Classes Required	Subject	Additional Notes/Requirements
1	Child Life	Must be taught by a Certified Child Life Specialist® who meets additional requirements.
2	Child Development	At least 2 courses that encompass child development from birth to 18 years old (Depending on specific course offerings, more than 2 courses may be needed to fulfill this requirement).
1	Family Systems	
1	Play	
1	Loss/Bereavement or Death/Dying	
1	Research	
3	Additional courses in child life or related content area	It is strongly recommended (though not required) that applicants pursue coursework in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Anatomy/Physiology • Medical Terminology • Ethics

Each course may satisfy only one of the requirements; none can be applied to meet two or more of these required courses. For example, a child life course that addresses play may not be used to fulfill both the child life course and the play course requirements. It may be used to meet the child life course OR the play course requirement, but not both.

3. Child Life Clinical Internship Experience:

Applicants must complete a minimum of **600 hours** of a child life clinical internship under the direct supervision of a Certified Child Life Specialist® who:

- a. Holds and maintains child life professional certification throughout the supervisory period
- b. Has a minimum of 4,000 hours of paid child life clinical experience prior to the start of the supervisory period
- c. Takes responsibility for the educational development and guidance of the candidate in the clinical setting

Additional Information on Required Courses

Child Life Course:

- This course is defined [here](#).
- There are six required areas of study that must be covered in this course. If any of these are not addressed, additional courses that meet these requirements must be taken. All six areas must be completed.
- This course must be taught by a Certified Child Life Specialist® (CCLS) who:
 - Holds and maintains professional child life certification throughout the period of instruction
 - Has 4,000 hours of paid child life clinical experience **OR** has a minimum of two years of experience* teaching child life subject matter
**CCLS must be able to demonstrate that the two years of teaching experience was completed prior to 2022. Beginning in 2022, those without prior teaching experiences who wish to initiate a child life course will only be considered qualified if they have a minimum of 4,000 hours of paid child life clinical experience.*
 - Maintains knowledge of the Association of Child Life Professionals Code of Professional Practice and the *Official Documents of the Association of Child Life Professionals*
 - Pursues training relevant to adult learning styles and evidence-based teaching methodology

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Child Development Courses:

- A minimum of two courses
- These courses must include curriculum related to the growth and development for all ages from birth to 18 years. If any portion of this age span is not covered, additional courses must be taken.
- If the courses are not offered through a child development department, the course titles must contain the words “child” and “development” and indicate the age range covered by the class.
- Courses covering the lifespan of development are not accepted.
- Courses focusing on adults or seniors are not accepted.

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Family Systems Course:

This course must focus on the family as a social system. Examples of acceptable curricula:

- Family relationships and the dynamics of family life
- Historical and contemporary theories related to family structure and functions
- Adaptations in family structure and interaction patterns during times of transition
- Examination of diverse family systems
- Parenting, caregiving, and family life from a cross-cultural perspective
- Adult-child interactions, family roles, and parenting skills
- Exploration of current research and theory as it applies to family systems

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Play Course:

This course must focus on the therapeutic aspects and/or learning objectives of play in infants, children, youth, and young adults. Examples of acceptable curricula:

- Classical and contemporary theories or concepts of play
- Observing, assessing, and using play to make judgments about children’s learning
- Play as the primary vehicle and indicator of physical, intellectual, social, and emotional development of children
- Play principles and values
- Structuring therapeutic play sessions
- Creativity and play
- Guidance of play
- Play and early learning

- Art, music, and play for early childhood education
- Play, curriculum, and program development
- Concepts of leisure, play, and recreation

Courses from the college/university department of physical education are NOT accepted.

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Loss/Bereavement or Death/Dying Course:

Courses on aging are not accepted.

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Research Course:

Courses with “research” in the title will be accepted. After completing this course, applicants should be able to articulate basic research methods, statistics, and outcomes that apply to clinical practice and program review.

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Additional Coursework:

In addition to the specific courses above, three courses in child life or a related subject must be completed.

While any courses in child life or a related subject (see below) will be accepted, it is highly recommended that applicants complete these courses in the following content areas:

- Medical Terminology
- Human Anatomy and Physiology
- Ethics, preferably with a focus on Medical/Health Care Ethics

Applicants who do not complete additional course work in the areas listed above will be required to take three courses from one or more of the following college/university departments:

- Child Life
- Child Development
- Family Development
- Human Development
- Family Dynamics (not Family Studies)

- Psychology
- Counseling
- Therapeutic Recreation
- Expressive Therapies (only courses that cover the therapeutic applications of play, music, dance, and art will be accepted; fine arts courses are NOT accepted)

For the three additional courses, the following areas of study are NOT accepted:

- Sociology
- Social Work
- Nursing
- Education
- Recreation Administration

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