ACADEMIC PROGRAM DIRECTORY

Child Life Academic Programs
These programs are self-identified as having degrees/curricula in child life. The Association of Child Life Professionals (ACLP) does not certify educational facilities; therefore, the Association claims no responsibility for the academic quality of any program. To be added to this list of academic programs, email resources@childlife.org.

For a listing of programs specializing in child life assistant education, click here.

United States and Canada

Alabama
Arizona
Arkansas
California
Florida
Georgia
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Louisiana
Maryland
Massachusetts
Michigan
Minnesota
Mississippi
Missouri
New Hampshire
New York
North Carolina
Ohio
Oklahoma
Ontario (Canada)
Pennsylvania
South Carolina
Tennessee
Texas
Utah
Washington
Wisconsin
Online Only

Alabama

Auburn University
Auburn, AL
Website: http://www.humsci.auburn.edu/hdfs/ugrad-internships.php
Department: Human Development & Family Studies
Contact: Jamie Sailors-Andersen, Ph.D., Director of Undergraduate Internships
Email: anderja@auburn.edu
Phone: (334) 844-3217
Degree: Undergraduate - Human Development & Family Studies, with Child Life Concentration
**Samford University**  
Birmingham, AL  
**Website**: http://dlserver.samford.edu/fams/index.htm  
**Department**: Family Studies  
**Contact**: Clara Gerhardt, Ph.D., M.B.A, DTE, M.A., Chair and Professor  
**Email**: kbchandl@samford.edu  
**Phone**: (205) 726-2843 x. 2087  
**Degree**: Undergraduate

**University of Alabama**  
Tuscaloosa, AL  
**Website**: www.ches.ua.edu/departments/hd/undergraduates/  
**Department**: Human Devel. & Family Studies  
**Contact**: Sherwood Burns-Nader, Ph.D., CCLS, Assistant Professor  
**Email**: sburns@ches.ua.edu  
**Phone**: (205) 348-6269  
**Degree**: Undergraduate  
**Date of Origin**: 1980

**Arizona**

**Arizona State University**  
Phoenix, AZ  
**Website**: https://thesanfordschool.asu.edu/child-life  
**Department**: T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics or School of Community Resources & Development  
**Contact**: Academic advisors in either the T. Denny School of Social and Family Dynamics (SSFD) or School of Community Resources & Development (SCRD)  
**Phone**: (480) 965-6978 (SSFD) or (602) 496-0550 (SCRD)  
**Degree**: Undergraduate Degree with Certificate in Child Life

**Arkansas**

**Harding University**  
Searcy, AR  
**Website**: www.harding.edu  
**Department**: Family and Consumer Sciences  
**Contact**: Crystal Whittington, Ph.D., CCLS, CFLE, CIMI, CFCS, Assistant Professor  
**Email**: cwhittington@harding.edu  
**Phone**: (501) 279-4676  
**Degree**: Undergraduate - Child Life
California

Azuza Pacific University
Azuza, CA
Website: www.apu.edu/childlife
Department: Psychology
Contact: Charity Vasquez, M.S., CCLS, Program Director
Email: cvasquez@apu.edu
Phone: (626) 857-2237
Contact: Tanya Barclay, M.S., CCLS, Program Director
Email: tbarclay@apu.edu
Phone: (626) 815-6000
Degree: MS in Child Life program and BA in Psychology with Child Life Specialist concentration

Loma Linda University
Loma Linda, CA
Website: http://childlifespecialist.llu.edu
Department: Counseling and Family Sciences
Contact: Michelle Minyard-Widmann, M.S., CCLS, Program Director and Assistant Professor
Email: maminyard@llu.edu
Phone: (909) 558-4547 x 47072
Degree: Masters - Child Life

Mills College
Oakland, CA
Website: www.Mills.edu
Department: Education
Contact: Linda Perez, Ph.D., Associate Professor/Clinical Licensed Psychologist
Email: lmperez@mills.edu
Phone: (510) 430-2328; (510) 430-3190
Degree: Undergraduate and Graduate - Child Life
Date of Origin: 1978

UCSB Extension
Santa Barbara, CA
Website: http://www.extension.ucsb.edu/childlife
Department: Education
Contact: Belinda Hammond, MA, CCLS, CIMI
Email: Belinda@ChildLifeConnection.com
Phone: (805) 893-4200
Degree: Certificate in Child Life

University of La Verne
La Verne, CA
Website: http://www.ulv.edu/
Department: Education
Contact: Leslie Ann Young, CCLS
Email: lyoung@laverne.edu
Phone: (909) 593-3511 x 4640
Degree: Graduate - Child Life

Florida

Nova Southeastern University
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Website: http://www.nova.edu/humanservices/devdisabilities/curriculum.html
Department: Institute for the Study of Human Service, Health and Justice
Contact: Donna Hillier, Psy.D., Director of Academics
Email: donna.hillier@nova.edu
Phone: (954) 262-7264
Degree: MS in Developmental Disabilities, Child Life Specialist Concentration

Georgia

Georgia Southern University
Statesboro, GA
Website: www.georgiasouthern.edu
Department: Family and Consumer Sciences
Contact: Jerri Kropp, Ph.D.
Email: jkropp@georgiasouthern.edu
Phone: (912) 681-5537 or (912) 681-5809
Degree: Undergraduate - Child & Family Development
Date of Origin: 1993

University of Georgia
Athens, GA
Website: www.fcs.uga.edu
Department: Human Development & Family Science
Contact: Laura McKee, Ph.D., Director of Child Life
Email: lmckee@uga.edu
Phone: (706) 542-4899
Degree: Undergraduate and Graduate - Human Development & Family Science with an emphasis in Child Life
Date of Origin: 1980
Illinois

**Erikson Institute**
Chicago, IL  
**Website:** [www.erikson.edu](http://www.erikson.edu)  
**Department:** Child Development  
**Contact:** Sharon Syc, Ph.D., Clinical Associate Professor and Co-Director Infant Specialist Certificate Program  
**Email:** ssyc@erikson.edu  
**Phone:** (312) 893-7187  
**Degree:** Graduate - Child Development with Child Life Concentration

**Illinois State University**
Normal, IL  
**Website:** [http://fcs.illinoisstate.edu/](http://fcs.illinoisstate.edu/)  
**Department:** Family and Consumer Science  
**Contact:** Keri Edwards, M.S., CCLS, CPST, CIMI, Child Life Program Director  
**Email:** kledwar@ilstu.edu  
**Phone:** (309) 438-2648  
**Degree:** Undergraduate - BS in Family and Consumer Sciences in Human Development Sequence and Graduate – MS in Family and Consumer Sciences with Child Life Concentration  
**Date of Origin:** 1994

**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**
Urbana, IL  
**Website:** [www.uiuc.edu](http://www.uiuc.edu)  
**Department:** Human Development & Family Services  
**Contact:** Debra Shelton Medlyn  
**Email:** dmedlyn@illinois.edu  
**Phone:** ???  
**Degree:** Undergraduate in Human Development and Family Services  
**Date of Origin:** 1986

Indiana

**Ball State University**
Muncie, IN  
**Website:** [http://www.bsu.edu/fcs/](http://www.bsu.edu/fcs/)  
**Department:** Family and Consumer Sciences

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Contact: Kresha Warnock, Program Director, Child Development, Child Life, and Family Studies or Jennifer Young, Academic Advisor
Email: kwarnock@bsu.edu or jyoung@bsu.edu
Phone: (765) 285-5924
Degree: Undergraduate - Family and Consumer Sciences, Child Life Option

Iowa

University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA
Website: http://clas.uiowa.edu/hhp/tracks/child-life/
Department: Health and Human Physiology
Contact: Emily Mozena, M.A., CCLS, CTRS
Email: emily-mozena@uiowa.edu
Phone: (319) 335-3822
Degree: Undergraduate – BS - Therapeutic Recreation with Child Life Sub-Track, Graduate – MS, Child Life

Louisiana

Louisiana Tech University
Ruston, LA
Website: http://www.latech.edu/ans/human-ecology/
Department: Human Ecology
Contact: Anita H. Pumphrey, CCLS, Instructor
Email: apumphrey@latech.edu
Phone: (318) 257-4517
Degree: Undergraduate
Date of Origin: 1990

Southeastern Louisiana University
Hammond, LA
Website: www.selu.edu
Department: College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Department of Health and Human Services, Family and Consumer Science Program
Contact: Holly Kihm, Ph.D., CCLS, CFLE, Program Coordinator
Email: Holly.kihm@selu.edu
Phone: ??
Degree: Undergraduate – BS, Family and Consumer Science with a concentration in child life
Maryland

Towson University
Towson, MD
Website: Undergraduate: http://www.towson.edu/fmst/; Graduate: http://grad.towson.edu/program/master/fmst-ms/
Department: Family Studies and Community Development
Contact: Lisa Martinelli Beasley, ATR-BC, CCLS, Clinical Assistant Professor
Email: lmartinelli@towson.edu
Phone: (410) 704-3766
Degree: Undergraduate and Graduate - Child Life, Administration and Family Collaboration

Massachusetts

Springfield College
Springfield, MA
Website: www.spfldcol.edu
Contact: Christie George, CCLS, CTRS. Assistant Professor, Sport Management and Recreation
Email: cgeorge@springfieldcollege.edu
Phone: (413) 748-3272
Degree: Undergraduate, Graduate
Date of Origin: Child Life, 1985; Therapeutic Recreation, 1940

Wheelock College
Boston, MA
Website: www.wheelock.edu
Contact: Paul Thayer, Associate Professor and Claire White, Assistant Professor, Co-Chairs, Child Life and Family Studies
Email: pthayer@wheelock.edu, cwhite@wheelock.edu
Phone: ??
Degree: Undergraduate, Graduate

Tufts University
Medford, MA
Website: www.tufts.edu
Department: Eliot Pearson Department of Child Study and Human Development
Contact: Kathryn Cantrell, M.A., CCLS
Email: kathryn.cantrell@gmail.com
Phone: (254) 913-9205
Degree: Undergraduate, Graduate

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Michigan

Concordia University Ann Arbor
Ann Arbor, MI
Website: www.cuaa.edu
Department: Family Life
Contact: Karna J. Doyle, CFLE, Child Life Concentration Coordinator
Email: doylek@cuaa.edu
Phone: (734) 995-4602
Degree: Undergraduate - Family Life with Child Life Concentration

Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI
Website: www.wmich.edu
Department: Family and Consumer Sciences
Contact: Bethany Folsom, MS, CCLS Adjunct Professor
Email: bethanyfolsom9@hotmail.com
Phone: ??
Degree: Graduate - concentration in child life

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Minnesota

Saint Mary's University
Minneapolis, MN
Website: www.smumn.edu
Department: Human Development
Contact: Jim Ollhoff, Ph.D., Program Director of Human Development; Colleen Lacey, MA, CCLS, LMFT, Faculty Advisor and Instructor
Phone: (651) 295-2454 (Jim Ollhoff)
Email: jollhoff@smumn.edu or cmlace03@smumn.edu
Degree: Graduate - Human Development with a child life focus

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Mississippi
Mississippi State University
Starkville, MS
Website: http://www.humansci.msstate.edu/students/human_science.asp
Department: Human Sciences
Contact: Julie C. Parker, Ph.D., CCLS
Email: jparker@humansci.msstate.edu
Phone: 662-325-0828
Degree: Undergraduate - Human Development & Family Studies with Child Life Concentration

Missouri

Missouri State University
Springfield, MO
Website: http://www.missouristate.edu/
Department: Early Childhood & Family Development
Contact: Cara Smith, M.A., CCLS or Melissa Schotthofer, M.A., CCLS
Email: CLSmith@MissouriState.edu or MelissaSchotthofer@MissouriState.edu
Phone: (417) 836-8874 or (417) 836-6144
Degree: Undergraduate - Specialization in Child Life
Date of Origin: Child Life, 1987; Early Childhood and Family Specialization, 1963

University of Missouri - Columbia
Columbia, MO
Website: http://hdfs.missouri.edu/
Department: Human Development and Family Studies
Contact: Nora Hager, M.A., CCLS, Child Life Program Coordinator
Email: hagern@missouri.edu
Phone: (573) 884-5997
Degree: Undergraduate and Graduate - Human Development & Family Studies with Child Life Concentration
Date of Origin: 1983

New Hampshire

University of New Hampshire
Durham, NH
Website: www.unh.edu
Department: Health and Human Services
Contact:
Patti Craig, Ph.D, CTRS/L, Assistant Professor - Recreation Management and Policy
Email: pjcraig@cisunix.unh.edu
Phone: (603) 862-0140
Contact: Trish Cox, M.S.Ed., MSW, CCLS, Adjunct Faculty for FS/RMP
Email: trish.cox@unh.edu
Phone: (603) 686-1853
Degree: Undergraduate - Child Life Minor offered by the Department of Family Studies and Therapeutic Recreation option in the Department of Recreation Management and Policy

New York

Bank Street College
New York, NY
Website: www.bankstreet.edu
Department: Education
Contact: Troy Pinkney-Ragsdale, Director of Child Life Program
Email: tpinkney@bankstreet.edu
Phone: (212) 875-4473
Degree: Graduate - Child Life (Online Program Began Fall 2015)
Date of Origin: 1988

Syracuse University
Syracuse, NY
Website: http://falk.syr.edu/ChildFamilyStudies/Undergraduate.aspx
Student Advising Website: https://cabaish.expressions.syr.edu/
Department: Child and Family Studies
Program Contact: Robert Moreno, Ph.D., Department Chair
Email: rmoreno@syr.edu
Phone: (315) 443-1715
Degree: B.S. - Child and Family Studies with a specialization in Child Life

Utica College
Utica, NY
Website: www.utica.edu
Department: Psychology/Child Life
Contact: DeAnna Bay, M.Ed., CCLS, CTRS
Email: dbay@utica.edu
Phone: (315) 792-3862
Degree: Undergraduate
Date of Origin: 1978
North Carolina

East Carolina University
Greenville, NC
Website: www.ecu.edu
Department: Child Development & Family Relations
Contact: Sandra Triebenbacher, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Email: triebenbachers@ecu.edu
Phone: (252) 328-1336
Degree: Undergraduate and Graduate - Child Development & Family Relations with a Specialization in Child Life
Date of Origin: 1990

Ohio

Ohio University
Athens, OH
Website: http://www.ohio.edu/chsp/sph/
Department: Social and Public Health
Contact: Jenny Chabot, Ph.D., CCLS
Email: chabot@ohio.edu
Phone: (740) 593-2871
Degree: Undergraduate and Graduate - Child and Family Studies with Concentration in Child Life

University of Akron
Akron, OH
Website: http://www.uakron.edu/health/
Department: Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
Contact: Rose Resler, M.A., CCLS, Director of Child Life Specialist Program
Email: rresler@uakron.edu
Phone: (330) 972-8040
Degree: B.A. - Child Life, M.A. - Child Life
Date of Origin: 1979

Oklahoma

Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK
Website: http://education.okstate.edu/index.php/leisure-studies-tr-overview
**Department:** Applied Health & Education Psychology  
**Contact:** Tim Passmore, Ed.D., CTRS, Associate Professor  
**Email:** tim.passmore@okstate.edu  
**Phone:** (405) 744-1811  
**Degree:** Undergraduate - Leisure Studies-Therapeutic Recreation with concentration in Child Life Therapy

**Pennsylvania**

**University of Pittsburgh**  
Pittsburgh, PA  
**Website:** http://www.education.pitt.edu/adp/  
**Department:** Applied Developmental Psychology  
**Contact:** Cara M. Bliss, Visiting Clinical Instructor, Master's Program  
**Email:** cara.bliss@pitt.edu  
**Phone:** (412) 648-7297  
**Degree:** –M.S. - Applied Developmental Psychology with Child Life Concentration

**South Carolina**

**College of Charleston**  
Charleston, SC  
**Website:** childlife.cofc.edu  
**Department:** Child Life  
**Contact:** Susan J. Simonian, Ph.D., ABPP  
**Phone:** (843) 953-8271  
**Degree:** M.S. - Child Life

**Columbia College**  
Columbia, SC  
**Website:** www.columbiasc.edu  
**Department:** Child and Family Studies / Child Life  
**Contact:** Bethany L. Fisackerly, M.S., CCLS  
**Email:** Bfisackerly@Columbiasc.edu  
**Phone:** 808-786-3024  
**Degree:** B.A. - Child & Family Studies with Child Life Emphasis

**Tennessee**
Tennessee Tech University
Cookeville, TN
Website: www.tntech.edu/hec
Department: Human Ecology
Contact: Cara Sisk, M.A., CCL, Child Life Program Director and Instructor
Email: csisk@tntech.edu
Phone: (931) 372-6017
Degree: B.A. - Human Ecology with Child Life Concentration

University of Tennessee - Chattanooga
Chattanooga, TN
Website: www.utc.edu
Department: School of Education
Contact: Maggie Akridge, M.S., CCL, Adjunct Professor
Email: Maggie.Akridge@erlanger.org or Marguerite-Butler@utc.edu
Phone: ??
Degree: Undergraduate

Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN
Website: www.vanderbilt.edu
Department: Psychology and Human Development
Contact: Vicki S. Harris, Ph.D., Assistant Clinical Professor
Email: vicki.s.harris@vanderbilt.edu
Phone: (615) 343-1896
Degree: M.Ed. - Applied Child Studies with Pediatrics Healthcare Concentration
Date of Origin: 2003

Texas State University - San Marcos
San Marcos, TX
Website: http://www.fcs.txstate.edu/degrees-programs/fcd/fcdgrad.html
Department: Family and Consumer Sciences
Contact: Elizabeth Morgan Russell, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
Email: er15@txstate.edu
Phone: (512) 245-9196
Degree: Graduate - Family and Child Studies with Graduate Child Life Track

Texas Woman's University
Denton, TX
Website: www.twu.edu
**Department:** College of Professional Education, Department of Family Sciences  
**Contact:** Elizabeth McCarroll, Child Life Advisor  
**Email:** emccarroll@twu.edu  
**Phone:** ??  
**Degree:** Bachelor and Master degrees in child development with a child life track

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**Utah**

**Brigham Young University**  
Provo, UT  
**Website:** [https://familylife.byu.edu/Pages/Home.aspx](https://familylife.byu.edu/Pages/Home.aspx)  
**Department:** School of Family Life  
**Contact:** Debbie Hema, M.S., CCLS, Instructor  
**Email:** debbiehema@gmail.com  
**Phone:** ??  
**Degree:** B.S. - Human Development  
**Date of Origin:** 2014

**University of Utah**  
Salt Lake City, UT  
**Website:** [www.fcs.utah.edu/undergrad/clp/](http://www.fcs.utah.edu/undergrad/clp/)  
**Department:** Family & Consumer Studies  
**Contact:** Jenny Stout, Academic Advisor  
**Email:** jenny.stout@fcs.utah.edu  
**Phone:** (801) 581-4431  
**Degree:** Undergraduate, Graduate  
**Date of Origin:** 1989

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**Washington**

**Central Washington University**  
Ellensburg, WA  
**Website:** [https://www.cwu.edu/family-consumer/child-life](https://www.cwu.edu/family-consumer/child-life)  
**Department:** Family & Consumer Science  
**Contact:** Amy Claridge, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Child Life Director  
**Email:** claridgea@cwu.edu  
**Phone:** (509) 963-2758  
**Degree:** B.S. - Family Studies, Child Life Specialization; M.S. - Family and Child Life

**Eastern Washington University**  
Cheney, WA
Website: http://www.ewu.edu/csbssw/programs/childrens-studies.xml
Department: Children's Studies
Contact: Deanna Trella
Email: dtrella@ewu.edu
Phone: (509) 359-4828
Degree: B.A. - Children's Studies, Child Life Track

Wisconsin

Edgewood College
Madison, WI
Website: www.edgewood.edu
Department: Education
Contact: Katie Glass, M.Ed., CCLS, Child Life Coordinator
Email: KGlass@edgewood.edu
Phone: (608) 663-4433
Degree: Undergraduate - Child Life
Date of Origin: 1980

Ontario (Canada)

McMaster University
Hamilton, ON
Website: www.fhs.mcmaster.ca/childlife
Department: Child Life Studies
Contact: Sarah Patterson, Curriculum Coordinator
Email: spatter@mcmaster.ca
Phone: (905) 525-9140 x 22795
Degree: Postprofessional Diploma Programme
Date of Origin: 1989

Online Only Academic Programs

American Public University
Website: http://catalog.apus.edu/2011/undergraduate/academic-programs/bachelor/child.htm
Department: Human Development and Family Studies
Contact name: Kathleen Mangeri
Email: kmangeri@apus.edu
Child Life Assistant Programs
These programs are self-identified as having degrees/curricula for child life assistants. The Child Life Council does not certify educational facilities, therefore the Council claims no responsibility for the academic quality of any program.

Minnesota

Dakota County Technical College
Rosemount, MN
Website: http://www.dctc.edu/
Department: Early Childhood and Youth Development
Contact: Dawn Braa, M.A., Early Childhood and Youth Development Instructor
Email: dawn.braa@dctc.edu
Phone: (651) 423-8315
Degree: Associate in Applied Science: Child Life Assistant Program with Fieldwork Experience