II. Course work requirement (e*ffective July 2013)*

Applicants must have completed a **total** of 10 college- or university-level courses in child life or a related department/subject **including a minimum of one** child life course (defined below) taught by a Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS). Courses may be taken either in-person or online. There is no minimum number of credit hours per class. To be accepted, courses MUST:

- be taken for credit; non-credit or audited courses are not accepted
- be at the bachelor's level or higher
- be taken at an academic institution that has been accredited by an organization recognized by either the US Department of Education or the Council on Higher Education Accreditation or the international equivalent
- appear with a passing grade on an official transcript

Definition of Child Life Course

All applicants for the fall 2013 and subsequent exam administrations will be required to have successfully completed a minimum of one child life course taught by a Certified Child Life Specialist as part of the 10-course requirement. The Child Life Certifying Committee (CLCC) has defined what this course must include in order to satisfy the requirement.

The required child life course must have a focus on children in the healthcare environment and must be taught by a Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS). ***ALL of the following applied areas of study must be included in the course.****

1. **Child Life Documents**-This will provide knowledge and understanding of the Official Documents of the Child Life Council (CLC) including the Code of Ethical Responsibility, Child Life Competencies, and Standards of Clinical Practice, the Child Life Mission, Values and Vision Statements, and the Code of Professional Practice.
2. **Scope of practice** – This will provide an introduction to the spectrum of child life practice in direct and non-direct services in pediatric health care including a historical review of the profession and its development in the evolution of children's healthcare.
3. **Impact of illness, injury and health care on patients and families** – This will illustrate, within the context of developmental theory, the stressors and developmental and psychosocial treatment issues that affect the health care experience of a "child and family" including siblings.
4. **Family-Centered Care**- This will provide an understanding of the key principles of patient- and family-centered care, including principles of respect and dignity, information sharing, supporting participation in care, and collaboration in relationship to child life practice.
5. **Therapeutic play**- This will provide students with opportunities to examine elements of play, benefits of play, and various therapeutic play modalities for the clinical setting.
6. **Preparation**- This will include both historical and current perspectives on the rationale for, and techniques and outcomes of preparation, as well as accepted preparation methods for healthcare encounters and life-changing events.

Child Life Course Documentation

The CCLS instructor is expected to complete the Child Life Course Verification form and provide a signed form to each student upon successful completion of the course. It is incumbent upon the instructor to use the form to identify the topics covered in the course.** It is the student's responsibility to save <u>all</u> necessary verification forms that demonstrate coverage of the six areas of applied study*. Without this documentation, the requirement will not be considered satisfied.

*An academic program may choose to provide coverage of these six topics in more than one course as long as each course covering the areas is taught by a CCLS. In such cases, a Child Life Course Verification Form must be submitted for each course, providing confirmation that the applicant received instruction from a CCLS in each of the required topics of study.

**At this time, neither CLC nor CLCC will pre-approve courses; it is an instructor's responsibility to confirm which topics are covered in their course.