



Graduate Academic Endorsement Application

Graduate Program Accreditation Task Force

Academic Review Committee

Approved by the Association of Child Life Professionals Board of Directors May 2018

Graduate Academic Endorsement Application

Application Overview

The Association of Child Life Professionals (ACLP) defines endorsement of graduate academic programs in child life, or with a concentration in child life, as an assurance that a program meets the curriculum mapping, course content, and faculty requirements set forth by the ACLP. Graduate Endorsement is a voluntary process of self-study and external review intended to evaluate, enhance, and publicly recognize graduate programs which meet the standards prescribed by ACLP. The purpose of this process is to promote the interests of students through improving the quality of teaching, learning, and professional practice and moving towards graduate accreditation and establishing academic eligibility towards certification.

Graduate academic programs that meet the following expectations will be considered for endorsement:

1. A master's degree in child life or related area with a concentration in child life
2. Employment of at least 1.0 FTE faculty member who:
 - Holds an advanced degree
 - Is a Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS)
 - Is involved in child life program decision making and curriculum development

Graduate Academic Endorsement Application

Academic Program Application Checklist

Please complete this checklist prior to submitting your Graduate Academic Endorsement Application to ensure all required materials are present.

- Ensure that your program meets all requirements for graduate endorsement.
- Download and complete the Graduate Academic Endorsement Application from the Graduate Endorsement page of the ACLP website.

Include the following Supporting Documents in the submitted application files:

Inclusion:	Document	Application Section
<input type="checkbox"/>	Curriculum Vitae for all individuals teaching within program, inclusive of adjunct instructors	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Letter from Dean/Chair of Academic Unit/Department verifying a faculty member who participates in program and curriculum development and meets the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Holds an Advanced Degree ● Current Child Life Certification ● Minimum 1.0 FTE 	

- Upload all narratives and supporting documentation to ACLP's Application Portal
- Export a PDF of the original application and supporting documents for your records.
- Send a nonrefundable administrative review fee of \$1750.00 (USD) to the Association of Child Life Professionals.
 - Applications submitted online will not be processed or reviewed until fee is received. Please send a check made out to the Association of Child Life Professionals (with Graduate Endorsement in the memo line) to the address below OR call 571-483-4500 to pay electronically.

Association of Child Life Professionals
 Attn: Graduate Endorsement
 1820 N Fort Myer Drive, Suite 520
 Arlington, VA 22209



Graduate Academic Endorsement Application

Name of College/University:	
College/University Address:	
Graduate Academic Program Applying for Endorsement (e.g., Master of Science in Child Life, Master of Science in Human Development, Child Life Concentration)	
Which label best describes the child life component of your Graduate Academic Program?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Master's degree in child life	<input type="checkbox"/> Concentration/emphasis/stream in child life
Academic Unit/Department of Program:	Chair of Academic Unit/Department:

Primary Program Contact:	Title:
Mailing Address:	
Preferred Phone:	
Email address:	
Fax:	

Secondary Contact Person Name:	Title:
Mailing Address:	
Preferred Phone:	
Email address:	
Fax:	

Graduate Academic Endorsement Application

Statement of Understanding

- I attest that the information enclosed in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.
- I read, understand, and agree to abide by the [Child Life Code of Ethics](#).
- Upon endorsement, I understand that if requested from the general public, the ACLP will confirm the following: endorsement status (current, expired, never endorsed), and effective/expiration dates.
- I understand that the ACLP reserves the right to verify any information I have provided in the application.
- I understand that once materials are submitted, the application and supporting documents become the property of the ACLP and will not be returned.
- I understand that evaluation scores will be released to the ACLP, the primary contact person, and secondary contact person listed on this application.
- That graduate programs will teach utilizing a broad range of teaching modalities that include action-based skill development and understanding.

Primary Contact Signature:

Primary Contact Printed Name:

Date:

Dean Signature:

Dean Printed Name:

Narrative Description of the Graduate Academic Program

- The graduate endorsement application contains 5 sections (Care of Infants Youth and Families, Professional Responsibility, Education and Supervision, Research Fundamentals and Administration).
- To earn endorsement programs must demonstrate that they are meeting each standard and the sub-standards within each section of the application. Programs will have the opportunity to write a brief narrative and upload supporting documentation to demonstrate mastery of the standards.
- It is up to programs to determine the types of supporting documentation they would like to submit to demonstrate they are meeting each standard and sub-standard. **At a minimum, programs should submit relevant course syllabi.** To ensure reviewers can accurately and efficiently review applications, programs should highlight or otherwise reference specific aspects of supporting materials that demonstrate standard mastery.
- You will be able to upload as many as 5 supporting documents for each sub-standard

I. Care of Infants Youth and Families

Standard A: The ability to assess the developmental and psychosocial needs of infants, children, youth and families	
a. Articulate theories of human growth and development, play and family systems.	
Narrative Information: 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

b. Describe formal and informal techniques to assess developmental and emotional state.	
Narrative Information: 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads
c. Identify relevant data used to develop a comprehensive child life assessment.	
Narrative Information: 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads
d. Identify factors that impact a child and family's vulnerability to stress and trauma.	
Narrative Information: 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

e. Identify how children and families interpret and make meaning of health, illness, and loss.	
Narrative Information: 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads
f. Recognize families as they define themselves, identifying strengths and challenges in family dynamics and community supports.	
Narrative Information: 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads
g. Describe the cyclical process of assessment, plan, intervention, and evaluation of child life services.	
Narrative Information: 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

Standard B: The ability to initiate and maintain meaningful and therapeutic relationships with infants, children, youth and families

a. Articulate the tenets of patient and family-centered care.

Narrative Information

300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)

Document Uploads

b. Describe the essential elements of the therapeutic relationship.

Narrative Information

300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)

Document Uploads

c. Identify effective communication skills to support a child and family.

Narrative Information

300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)

Document Uploads

d. Identify values related to sociocultural diversity.

Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

e. Recognize educational opportunities and resources that are responsive to the needs of the child and family in order to promote learning mastery.

Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

Standard C: The ability to provide opportunities for play for infants, children, youth, and families.

a. Articulate the definitions and functions of play

Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

b. Identify the developmental and social milestones of play.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads
c. Identify therapeutic approaches that facilitate open-ended, developmentally-supportive play and expressive arts.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads
d. Understand common play themes relevant to life events and healthcare experiences.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

e. Identify toys and materials that encourage open-ended and expressive play, as well as close-ended play, and the value and purpose of each.

Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

f. Recognize ways in which activities and materials can encourage cultural connections.

Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

g. Identify theories related to play that best support child life practice.

Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

Standard D: The ability to provide a safe, therapeutic and healing environment for infants, children, youth, and families.

a. Explain the impact of environmental design on human behavior.

Narrative Information

300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)

Document Uploads

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b. Identify emotional safety hazards and corresponding preventive and protective measures.

Narrative Information

300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)

Document Uploads

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c. Identify environmental safety hazards and corresponding preventive and protective measures.

Narrative Information

300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)

Document Uploads

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d. Recognize public health guidelines for technology in early childhood and identify digital content that facilitates coping.

Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

e. Identify knowledge of privacy and confidentiality policies

Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

Standard E: The ability to support infants, children, youth, and families in coping with stressful events.

a. Identify types of stressful events affecting children and families, including medical procedures, pain, traumatic life events, loss, end of life, and grief work.

Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

b. Identify factors that may impact vulnerability to stress.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads
c. Describe immediate and long term coping styles and techniques, as well as their effect on adjustment and behavior.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads
d. Describe sensory, cognitive, and behavioral coping strategies specific to developmental stages and populations.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

e. Articulate effective non-pharmacological pain management techniques.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads
f. Identify principles of effective advocacy in partnership with families and other team members.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads
g. Understand the role of communication, particularly active listening and empathic responding, in building relationships with families undergoing stress.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

h. Understand the role of self-reflection in aiding patients and families in the process of mourning.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads
i. Identify various stages or models of grief.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads
Standard F: The ability to provide teaching, specific to the population served, including psychological preparation for potentially stressful experiences, with infants, children, youth, and families.	
a. Identify basic terminology, processes, and expected plan of care for the population served.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

b. Articulate learning styles and needs of individuals with various developmental levels, emotional states, and of diverse backgrounds and experiences.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads
c. Identify teaching techniques for use with individuals of diverse developmental levels and learning needs.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads
d. Describe common fears, misconceptions, and concerns of individuals in each developmental stage.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

e. Describe how children construct knowledge of their healthcare experience through interaction with other children, adults, and materials.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads
f. Articulate fundamentals of psychological preparation found in child life literature.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

II. Professional Responsibility

Standard A: The ability to practice within the scope of professional and personal knowledge and skill.	
a. Demonstrate an understanding of the scope of practice as defined by the appropriate state jurisdiction or regulatory organization.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

b. Demonstration of an understanding of the interconnections between scope of practice and practice setting.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads
c. Take action to ensure personal responsibilities and professional competencies are maintained and do not fall below a level considered acceptable in the field of practice.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads
d. Manage overlaps in scope of practice with other professions.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

Standard B: The ability to continuously engage in self-reflective professional child life practice.	
a. Recognize and describe how personal challenges and learning needs in knowledge and practice skills may impact service delivery.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads
b. Identify resources and opportunities for professional development.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads
c. Articulate reasons for and impact of under-involvement and over-involvement of professionals with children and families.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

d. Articulate the impact of one's own culture, values, beliefs, and behaviors on interactions with diverse populations.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads
Standard C: The ability to function as a member of the service team.	
a. Describes services and resources of other professionals and identify their roles and functions.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads
b. Identify the unique contribution of the family and professionals in the provision of care.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

c. Articulate the organizational structure and function of the interdisciplinary team.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads
d. Describe the impact of communication styles on groups and individuals.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads
e. Identify the importance of advocacy in collaboration with the medical team.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

f. Recognize the integral role of patient and family within the interdisciplinary team.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

III. Education and Supervision

Standard A: The ability to represent and communicate child life practice and psychosocial issues of infants, children, youth, and families to others.	
a. Describe and integrate the basic concepts of public speaking and teaching methods appropriate to subject matter and audience.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

b. Identify classic and current literature on issues related to child life services in a manner meaningful to the audience.

Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

c. Articulate the process for engaging in evidence-based practice.

Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

d. Identify and articulate a definition of advocacy

Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

Standard B: The ability to supervise child life students and volunteers.	
a. Discuss supervisory styles and their impact on others.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads
b. Identify skills and knowledge necessary for others to complete assignments and tasks.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads
c. Articulate skills and knowledge necessary for others to complete assignments and tasks.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

d. Identify adult learning needs.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

IV. Research Fundamentals

Standard A: The ability to integrate clinical evidence and fundamental child life knowledge into professional decision making.	
a. Describe research methodologies that are relevant to the child life field (qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods, evidence-based practice, and quality improvement).	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads
b. Articulate the role and purpose of research design.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

V. Administration

Standard A: The ability to develop and evaluate child life services.	
a. Identify program components that require assessment.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads
b. Identify meaningful data for effective evaluation of child life services.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads
c. Describe resources to assist in evaluation and development of services.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

Standard B: The ability to implement child life services within the structure and culture of the work.

a. Identify organizational structure and relevant policies and procedures.

Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

b. Articulate the mission and goals of the work environment.

Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

c. Identify methods for obtaining needed resources.

Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

d. Identify information necessary for effectively managing resources.	
Narrative Information 300 words maximum, upload relevant documents (no external links)	Document Uploads

Thank you!

Once completed your application will be sent to 3 members of our Academic Review Committee for review. Reviews may take up to 12 weeks to complete. Once completed you will be notified of your results via USPS mail.

If you have any questions please email ACLP Manager of Program Standards, Emily Eagon (EEagon@childlife.org).