

BECOMING A Child Life Specialist

STEPS, RESOURCES AND CLASSES

READ & ATTEND

- Read the Association of Child Life Professionals website
- Read the Child Life Requirements for certification
- Read the Southern Association of Child Life Professionals website
- Attend Child Life 101 and 201 Workshops

CLASSES

- Successfully complete the 10 required courses
- Academic Eligibility Requirement
- See next page for TCU approved courses

GRADUATE!

ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

Begin an eligibility assessment for the certification exam

VOLUNTEER

- Apply to be a College Volunteer at Cook Children's Medical Center.
 - Applications accepted April 1 - May 1
- Other places to volunteer: hospitals, specialized medical summer camps (like Camp John Marc), schools, churches, non-profits, Cook Children's camps

PRACTICUM & INTERNSHIP

- Apply and complete child life pre-internship experiences
- Apply and complete an internship
 - Typically completed after completing a bachelors (approx. 40 hours a week)

CERTIFICATION EXAM

Successfully complete a certification exam

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CLASSES AT TCU

TCU courses **approved** by the Association of Child Life Professionals:

Courses approved through Fall 2027

Child Life Requirement	TCU Course(s) (Semester Typically Offered)
1 Child Life Course Taught by a CLS	CHDV 40223 Fundamentals of Child Life Practice (SPRING)
2 Child Development Courses	PSYC 30323 Child Psychology (FALL, SPRING) EDUC 30143 Child & Adolescent Development (FALL, SPRING, SUM)
1 Family System Course	CHDV 40493 Family Systems (SPRING)
1 Play Course	CHDV 30223 Fundamentals of Play (FALL)
1 Loss/Bereavement or Death/Dying Course	SOWO 40563 Grief & Loss (FALL)
1 Research Course	CHDV 30533 Developmental Research & Evaluation (FALL)
3 Additional Courses	CHDV 20123 Trauma-Informed Interventions (FALL) CHDV 25053 Global Advocacy (SPRING, SUM) CHDV 50533 Case Studies in Child Development (FALL, SPRING)

Recommended courses include Anatomy & Physiology I & II and Medical Terminology.



COLLEGE OF
SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

KARYN PURVIS INSTITUTE
OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT