



The University of Georgia

*The University of Georgia and Medical College of Georgia
Joint Child Life Program Emphasis*

Child Life Handbook

MCG
Children's Medical Center



2007-2008

*The University of Georgia and Medical College of Georgia
Joint Child Life Program Emphasis*

Undergraduate Child Life Handbook

*Department of Child and Family Development
University of Georgia
2007-2008*

*Two Georgia
institutions have
joined resources
to provide a child
life curriculum*

WHAT IS CHILD LIFE?

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Child Life is an evolving profession within the health care field. Child Life professionals work primarily in hospitals and medical centers. The role of a Child Life Specialist is to provide for the unique developmental and emotional needs of hospitalized children and their families. Child Life Specialists fulfill this role primarily by: (a) providing for a child's continued growth and development during hospitalization, and (b) helping the hospitalized child and family cope with stressful experiences. Specific interventions used to reach these goals include preparing children for medical procedures, providing emotional support to patients and families, and providing opportunities for children's play. A Child Life Specialist serves as an advocate for children and families within the health care setting and works as an integral part of the health care team. Child Life programs range in size from one Child Life Specialist to more than 20.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

UNDERGRADUATE CHILD LIFE EMPHASIS:

The University of Georgia Department of Child and Family Development and The Medical College of Georgia (MCG) have joined resources to provide an exciting and unique undergraduate child life curriculum. The challenging child life curriculum is organized into University core requirements, Child and Family Development courses, and professional courses. Students are based at UGA for the first three years of the program. The Senior Year is spent at MCG in Augusta, Georgia.

Purpose

The purpose of the child life emphasis is to prepare students to work in health care settings with children and families. The University of Georgia/Medical College of Georgia (UGA/MCG) Child Life Education and Training Program is an emphasis in the UGA Department of Child and Family Development.

Course Work

Students take courses at UGA for the first three years of the program. Courses include, but are not limited to the following topics:

- Child and Family Development
- Hospitalized Children and Families
- Exceptional Children and Families
- Parent Guidance and Child Guidance

During the senior year of this program, students participate in an internship program at MCG where they take health care related courses, while completing over 1000 hours of clinical experience.

ABOUT MCG AND CHILD LIFE

Medical College of Georgia Children's Medical Center

The Medical College of Georgia is the health sciences research university of the state of Georgia. MCG makes a commitment to the people of Georgia to educate and train health care professionals. The hospital and clinics consist of a 540-bed hospital and more than 80 specialty clinics. The MCG Children's Medical Center, a free-standing 149-bed facility, consists of a medical unit, surgical unit, psychiatry unit, pediatric intensive care, pediatric emergency room, neonatal intensive care, and numerous outpatient clinics. MCG website: www.mcg.edu

Department of Child and Adolescent Life

The Department of Child and Adolescent Life was established in November 1988. The department is comprised of a manager, child life specialists, and a coordinator of school services. Child Life Specialists serve patients and families in the Children's Medical Center, intensive care unit, and clinic and emergency and express care units. Child and Adolescent Life is housed in the department of Pediatrics.

MAJOR: CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT – CHILD LIFE EMPHASIS
B.S.F.C.S. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS
COLLEGE OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES
WWW.FCS.UGA.EDU

- AREA A ESSENTIAL SKILLS (9 hours)**
3 ENGL 1101 English Composition I
3 ENGL 1102 English Composition II
3 MATH 1101 Mathematical Modeling
- AREA B INSTITUTIONAL OPTIONS (4-5 hours)**
4-5 Electives
- AREA C HUMANITIES AND FINE ARTS (6 hours)**
Choose one Fine Arts Course and one Humanities Course; **or**
two Humanities Courses from different Departments
3 SPCM 1100 Introduction to Public Speaking
3 Fine Arts Course **or** a Humanities from a Department other than Speech
- AREA D SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, AND TECHNOLOGY (10-11 hours)**
4 BIOL 1103-1103L Basic Concepts in Biology
3 BIOL 1104 Organismal Biology
3-4 MATH 1060 Mathematics of Decision Making **or**
PHYS 1010 Physical Science **or** STAT 2000 Elementary Statistics
- AREA E SOCIAL SCIENCES (12 hours)**
3 HIST 2111 American History to 1865 **or** 2112 American History since 1865
3 POLS 1101 American Government
3 PSYC 1101 Elementary Psychology
3 SOCI 1101 Introductory Sociology **or** ANTH 1102 Introduction to Anthropology
- AREA F COURSES RELATED TO MAJOR (18 hours)**
3 CHFD 2100 Development Within the Family
3 CHFD 2200 Introduction to Life Span Development
3 FDNS 2100 Human Nutrition and Food
3 HACE 2100 Family Economic Environment
3 CSCI 1100-1100L* Introduction to Personal Computing **or** EDIT 2000
Introduction to Computers for Teachers
3-4 Four hours of Foreign Language **or** three hours of Speech **or** Social Sciences*

*If these courses are taken in Areas A-E, then electives may be taken in those areas.

Entrance Requirements: Advisor Approval. Completion of Core Areas A,C,D,E.
Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Completion of Area F courses with a grade of “C” (2.0)
or higher. Interview and acceptance by Medical College of Georgia (MCG).

May 15, 2007

**MAJOR REQUIREMENTS: REQUIRED COURSES “C” grade (2.0) or better required
A baccalaureate degree program must require at least 21 semester hours of upper division
courses in the major field and at least 39 semester hours of upper division work overall.**

- | | | |
|---|-----------|---|
| 1 | CHFD 2000 | Introduction to Family and Consumer Sciences |
| 3 | CHFD 3110 | Professional Development/Community Activities |
| 3 | CHFD 3700 | Adolescence and Young Adulthood Survey |
| 3 | CHFD 3710 | Midlife/Elder Years Survey |
| 3 | CHFD 3920 | Issues in Family Systems |
| 3 | CHFD 4860 | Parent Education and Child Guidance |
| 3 | CHFD 3900 | Prenatal and Infant Development |
| 3 | CHFD 3930 | Development of Interpersonal Relationships |
| 3 | CHFD 4810 | Hospitalized Child and the Family |
| 3 | CHFD 5130 | Creative Activities for Young Children |
| 3 | CHFD 5920 | Internship in Child and Family Development |
| 1 | PEDB | Physical Education |

SENIOR YEAR AT THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA (MCG)
(Courses below or comparable courses depending on current course offerings).

FALL SEMESTER

Upon completion of Fall Semester at MCG:

Request Official Transcript be sent to UGA Undergraduate Admissions, Terrell Hall, Athens, GA 30602

- | | | |
|----|----------|---|
| 1 | AHS 3610 | Ethics for Allied Health Professionals |
| 11 | AHS 4451 | Child Life Clinic (including Medical Terminology) |
| 3 | AHS 4453 | Learning in Family Environments |

SPRING SEMESTER

Upon completion of Spring Semester at MCG:

Request Official Transcript be sent to Charlotte Wallinga; Department of Child and Family Development; Family Science Center 2; University of Georgia; Athens, GA 30602

- | | | |
|----|----------|---|
| 15 | AHS 4452 | Child Life Clinic Internship (12-15 credits variable) |
|----|----------|---|

Total Required Hours 121

May 15, 2007

SENIOR YEAR AT THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA (MCG)

This year is a combination of course work related to health care and clinical experience. The Child Life Clinics I and II provide students an opportunity to complete over 1000 hours of clinical work with children and families in health care settings. Along with their onsite work at the MCG Children's Medical Center, a 149-bed facility, students will have opportunities to:

- ◆ survey current literature in health care
- ◆ discuss issues and trends
- ◆ provide preparation and therapeutic play opportunities
- ◆ provide procedural support and distraction during procedures
- ◆ plan and participate in community outreach activities
- ◆ visit other child life facilities
- ◆ work as a member of the health-care team
- ◆ develop, plan, and assess therapeutic interventions with hospitalized patients
- ◆ participate in weekly student seminars
- ◆ rotate through various different clinical settings
- ◆ promote family centered care through clinical practice and coursework

WHAT DO I DO IN THE CHILD LIFE CLINIC?

During your clinical experience you will go through various rotations. In each rotation you will be interning under a different Child Life Specialist. The four areas are:

- 1) Hematology/Oncology
- 2) General Pediatrics
- 3) Surgery
- 4) Emergency Room/PICU (Pediatric Intensive Care Unit)

In each rotation you will be:

- ◆ planning and implementing therapeutic activities for children
- ◆ writing chart notes
- ◆ assisting in preparing children for procedures
- ◆ planning and implementing activities in developmental play groups
- ◆ planning and assisting in group projects and special events
- ◆ supporting children and families through painful procedures

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

To apply for the child life emphasis, students must (1) have at least a **cumulative 3.0** GPA, (2) completed CHFD 4810 Hospitalized Child and the Family, (3) shadowed a certified Child Life Specialist for at least 8 hours, (4) have three letters of recommendation, one of which must be from an individual in academia (professor form provided), (5) participate in an interview with the MCG staff, and (6) be formally admitted into the Department of Child and Family Development and the Child Life Program. Only a limited number of students are accepted into the joint program in Child Life. The application and admission process into the program, including interviewing with MCG staff usually takes place once each year.

In addition, transfer students must complete at least 30 hours at the University of Georgia to graduate. The 30 hours taken at The Medical College of Georgia do not count towards the 30 hours required by The University of Georgia.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Contact Dr. Diane Hodson at 542-4896 or e-mail her at dhodson@fcs.uga.edu to discuss the undergraduate degree in Child and Family Development. Dr. Charlotte Wallinga conducts periodic information meetings each semester concerning the Child Life emphasis. Additionally, she assists in advising students who have already been selected and admitted into the Child Life emphasis program.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ's)

Q. How do I apply to the program?

A. Students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 with at least 30 hours of class work, be formally admitted into the Department of Child and Family Development and have taken or be enrolled in CHFD 4810 Hospitalized Child and the Family. Students must also fill out an application and any application requirements, along with participating in an interview with MCG staff. In addition, students must have completed at least 8 hours of shadowing a certified Child Life Specialist. The Child Life Specialist must provide a letter and documentation of this shadowing experience. Please keep in mind that you must apply and be accepted into the program to be considered for the Child Life emphasis; you cannot transfer into the Child Life program. Many students have fulfilled these requirements and are eligible to apply by their sophomore or junior year.

Q. How many positions are available each year?

A. Usually four to five positions. One intern for each Child Life Specialist at MCG.

Q. Does HOPE still pay for my schooling?

A. Yes. Sometimes the process is a bit confusing but the paperwork eventually gets figured out.

Q. What school am I actually in while at MCG?

A. You are in the School of Allied Health Sciences at MCG and are considered a transient student but graduate from UGA.

Q. Do I still get UGA football tickets?

A. No. You are not technically a student at UGA for this year and will not receive student football tickets because your student fees will not have been paid.

Q. Where is The Medical College of Georgia?

A. It is located in Augusta, Georgia, about 100 miles (approximately 2 hours) from UGA.

Q. Where will I live while in Augusta?

A. There are student dorms available, but most interns rent an apartment. There are many apartments available in Augusta and they are not difficult to rent. Once you have been accepted at MCG and visit Augusta for orientation, the current interns and Child Life Specialist Student Coordinator will provide you with information about housing options.

Q. What if I am almost ready to graduate and I just heard about Child Life?

A. As applicants for the undergraduate emphasis in Child Life are usually chosen during their sophomore or junior year of college, it may be in your best interest to graduate with your current degree and consider an emphasis in Child Life at the graduate level. However, contact your advisor about your current program of study and discuss your possible options.

Q. I am now in my junior year at a nearby college. How do I go about gaining admission into your Child Life Program?

A. Transfer students must complete at least 30 hours at The University of Georgia. The 30 hours taken at The Medical College of Georgia do not count toward the 30 hours required by The University of Georgia. Therefore, one should consider the feasibility of gaining 30 hours after transferring to The University of Georgia. Also, applicants for the Child Life Program are usually selected through an interview process during their sophomore or junior year at The University of Georgia. Therefore, it may be more feasible to pursue the Child Life emphasis at the graduate level.

Q. What are the requirements for becoming a CCLS?

A. You must have 1) a Bachelor's degree or higher, 2) a minimum of 10 courses in child life, child development, child and family studies, or closely related areas, and 3) 480 hours of child life clinical experience (internship) supervised by a certified child life specialist, and 4) pass the Child Life certification exam. For more information about certification go to the CLC website at www.childlife.org and click on certification.

Q. Where can I learn more about Child Life in general to see if this is an occupation that interests me?

A. The Child Life Council has a website at www.childlife.org that you can visit to learn more about the Child Life Profession. Also, the Child and Family Development course 4810 Hospitalized Child and the Family provides an overview of Child Life principles and developmental and psychosocial issues of hospitalized children and families.

Q. What degree will I graduate with if I am in the Child Life Emphasis?

A. After completing all the specified requirements, students in the Child Life emphasis will graduate with a Baccalaureate degree from the University of Georgia in Child and Family Development with a Child Life Emphasis.

WHAT MAKES THIS JOINT PROGRAM UNIQUE?

- ◆ To become a certified CLS you need to complete 480 hours of clinical experience and pass the certification exam. This program offers at least 1000 hours of experience, which is more than twice the experience needed.
- ◆ You gain knowledge and experience in many different areas of Child Life (out-patient and in-patient, surgery, emergency room, general pediatrics, hematology, oncology, pediatric intensive care) whereas you may only work in one specialized area in other internships.
- ◆ You have the opportunity to take classes both at UGA and MCG.
- ◆ This program utilizes a team approach to learning. Students benefit from day-to-day contact with various members of the healthcare team.
- ◆ Through this program you can work on completing some of the professional requirements for becoming a Child Life Professional while still in your undergraduate study.

SUMMARY

The University of Georgia (UGA) and The Medical College of Georgia (MCG) have collaborated to provide an innovative child life curriculum. This program allows students to complete three years of course work at UGA and one year of course work and over 1000 clinical hours at MCG. Thus, a truly integrated curriculum has been designed that uses a multidisciplinary team approach to training future child life specialists.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

The University of Georgia
Department of Child and Family Development
123 Dawson Hall
The University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602
(706) 542-4895
www.fcs.uga.edu/cfd