MS in Child Life

The master's degree in child life (https://www.apu.edu/bas/programs/masters-in-child-life/) is designed to prepare graduates to successfully complete credentialing as child life specialists, who are allied health care professionals with expertise in helping children and their families navigate traumatic and challenging experiences, particularly health crises.

This is an applied/clinical program, with students required to complete a 120-hour practicum in child life followed by a 600-hour hospital internship, in addition to rigorous coursework. The program comprises 42 units and can be completed in 18 months, with available start times in spring and fall. Courses take place primarily in the evenings. There is also online synchronous learning for the Advanced Standing (http://catalog.apu.edu/academics/school-behavioral-applied-sciences/psychology/advanced-standing-child-life-ms/) option.

Requirements

Code	Title	Units
PCLS 501	Advanced Child Development	3
PCLS 502	Applied Child Development and Medical Terminology	3
PCLS 511	Family Systems Theory and Applications	3
PCLS 512	Theories and Practices of Grief and Loss	3
PCLS 521	Introduction to Child Life	3
PCLS 522	Therapeutic Interventions and Play-Based Techniques	3
PCLS 523	Coping Strategies for Children Experiencing Stress and Trauma	3
PCLS 524	Adolescent Development and Interventions	3
PCLS 525	Assessment, Preparation, and Documentation	3
PCLS 527	Supporting Children with Special Needs in the Healthcare System	3
PCLS 531	Ethics, Diversity and Professional Issues	3
PCLS 542	Practicum in Child Life	3
PCLS 551	Research Methods and Statistical Analysis	3
PCLS 552	Thesis/Project Seminar	3
Optional Electives [1]		
PCLS 520	Infants and Toddlers: Development and Interventions	
PCLS 532	Child Life Administration and Leadership	
PCLS 543	Internship in Child Life	
PCLS 545	Internship in Child Life II	
Total Units		**42**

[1] These courses may serve as electives for the MS in Child Life program, or be used as substitutes for required courses by students who enter the program with previous completed coursework that meets the student learning outcomes for required courses. Departmental permission is required for such a substitution.

Admission

University graduate admission and program-specific requirements must be met before an application is complete (see Admission to the University (http://catalog.apu.edu/admissions/)). **Program-specific application requirements are available online (https://tracking.cirrusinsight.com/74647a2d-e9a2-412f-9b55-9959c7aac4ec/apu-edu-graduateprofessionalcenter-admissions-requirements-program/).**

International students should contact Graduate and Professional Admissions (https://www.apu.edu/graduateprofessionalcenter/admissions/) for application procedures.