

Child Life

- Prepare for working in pediatric health care facilities and alternative sites
- Experience small classes, attentive faculty, and extensive advisement
- Work toward earning your certification in Child Life with a family-centered care approach

The Master's Degree Program

This 43-credit Child Life Program prepares students for careers as Child Life Specialists in both hospital and community health care environments. You will develop the skills necessary to promote family-centered care and you will learn how to work with children and their families who are living with the realities of chronic or terminal illness, surgery, trauma, injuries and disabilities.

You will also learn developmentally appropriate ways of working in hospitals and other health care settings. Through the program you will gain an understanding of medical issues coupled with a firm grounding in practice. This combination of theory and practice serves as an excellent support for Child Life Specialists who work with children, youth and families. You will learn to advocate for children and their families, prepare children for medical procedures, teach children about their illness, minimize stress and anxiety for children and their families, create opportunities that strengthen self-esteem and independence, provide non-pharmacological techniques to comfort children, and provide normal life experiences that promote optimal growth and development.

Certification

Child Life Professional Certification is granted by the Child Life Council. Upon completion of our Child Life master's degree, graduates will have satisfied the course requirements, will have completed the mandated 480-hour internship in Child Life facilities directed by Certified Child Life professionals, and will be prepared to take the certification examination given by the Child Life Council. The Child Life Certification Exam is given twice a year (spring and fall) at selected locations. For more information, contact the Child Life Council at 301-881-7090 or visit www.childlife.org.

212-875-4404

**Office of Graduate Admissions
Bank Street College Graduate School of Education
610 West 112th Street, New York, NY 10025**

**www.bankstreet.edu/gs
e-mail: gradcourses@bankstreet.edu**

Why Bank Street College?

For many years Bank Street has helped prepare those wishing to enter the field of Child Life. In 2001, however, we launched a full master's degree program in Child Life leading to certification by the Child Life Council.

Bank Street has long had a reputation for providing outstanding programs. We offer small classes; an experienced, knowledgeable faculty dedicated to working with graduate students; and extensive supervision and advisement.

Our work with children is based on sound developmental principles and on diverse opportunities for learning through experience. Further, we believe in profound possibilities for growth, development and change both in the graduate students who become part of the Bank Street community and in the children and families we serve.

Bank Street®



Course Requirements with term sequence of courses:

1 st Fall or previous Spring	EDUC 500	Child Development	3
1 st Fall	EDUC 821	Child Life in the Health Care Setting: A Family-Centered Care Approach [pre- or co-requisite: EDUC 500]	3
1 st Fall	EDUC 826	Medical Aspects of Illness: A Child Life Perspective [Pre- or co-requisite: EDUC 500]	3
1 st Spring	EDUC 803	Developmental Variations [prerequisite: EDUC 500 or EDUC 501 or EDUC 800 or permission of instructor]	2
1 st Spring	EDUC 822	Children with Special Health Care Needs: In the Hospital, at Home and in School [prerequisite: EDUC 500]	3
1 st Spring	EDUC 828	Loss in Children's Lives: Implications for Schools, Hospitals, and Home [prerequisite: EDUC 500]	3
1 st Summer 1	EDUC 621	Introduction to Child Life Documentation	1
1 st Summer 2	EDUC 820	Group Processes for Child Life Specialists [prerequisite: EDUC 500]	1
2 nd Fall	EDUC 827	Weaving Creative Arts Modalities into Child Life Practice [prerequisites: EDUC 821 and EDUC 822]	3
2 nd Fall	EDUC 829	Therapeutic Play Techniques for Child Life Specialists [prerequisite: EDUC 500]	3
2 nd Spring	LEAD 825	Child Life Program Development and Administration [Prerequisite: EDUC 822; co-requisite: EDUC 950]	3
		Identification and Reporting of Child Abuse and Maltreatment	
		Electives as needed to complete the requirements of the program	3
2 nd Fall and 2 nd Spring	EDUC 950	Clinical Experience and Supervised Fieldwork I and 2: Children in Health Care Settings	12
		Integrative Master's Project	0
		Total	43

Clinical Experience and Supervised Fieldwork/Advisement

Clinical Experience and Supervised Fieldwork provide a full year of concentrated fieldwork that is jointly supervised by Bank Street faculty and certified Child Life Specialists in health care settings. Child Life students will join other students in conference group participation.

Throughout your year of supervised fieldwork/advisement, your advisor will visit you in your setting each month. You will meet individually twice a month with your Bank Street advisor, and you will gather with a small, supportive peer group once a week throughout the fall and spring terms. The year of supervision and advisement is central to your professional growth and development as you become a successful Child Life Specialist.

Integrative Master's Project

Before graduating, candidates complete an independent study (master's thesis), site-based inquiry or collaborative student-faculty inquiry, mentored directed essay, or portfolio. Your choice will depend on your own goals and learning style. This project allows you to pursue an area of particular interest to you, or to weave together the threads and understandings of your Bank Street graduate experience.

Admissions Requirements

Applicants to the Child Life program need to have completed a bachelor's degree and to demonstrate experience working with children with health care needs. You will need to complete 100 hours of volunteer work in a Child Life setting before doing your year of supervised fieldwork/advisement at Bank Street College.

Call the Offices of Graduate Admissions (212-875-4404) and Financial Aid (212-875-4408) for more information.