



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
School of Behavioral Health

Child Life Specialist MS Program



MS PROGRAM IN CHILD LIFE SPECIALIST

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Michelle Minyard-Widmann, MS, CCLS

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AT A GLANCE

- ✓ 74-unit curriculum which includes: 2 years of course work, a comprehensive exam, and supervised clinical practicum and internship
- ✓ [ACLP endorsed](#) graduate program
- ✓ Multiple clinical experiences within the Loma Linda University Health system of care
- ✓ Global health trips for students including a child life student trip to China
- ✓ One-to-one academic and clinical advising
- ✓ Christian environment emphasizing integrated learning and whole person care

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ Applicants to the MS degree in the Child Life Specialist Program must meet the School of Behavioral Health admissions requirements as outlined in the Loma Linda University Catalog and give evidence of academic ability, professional comportment and mature judgement. Additional admission requirements include:
 - ✓ Bachelor's degree in the social sciences or equivalent
 - ✓ Minimum grade point average 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in bachelor's coursework for at least the final 45 units prior to graduation
 - ✓ GRE is not required
 - ✓ Health clearance
 - ✓ Prior to matriculation, students must pass a background check
 - ✓ Official transcripts on file
 - ✓ Three letters of recommendation
 - ✓ Written statement of purpose for applying to the Child Life program
 - ✓ Volunteer experience in a hospital setting is preferred
 - ✓ Interview with department faculty (on-campus interviews are scheduled for mid-January through late March and phone interviews are scheduled individually)
- ✓ Those for which English is not their first language must present a minimum score of 80 for the computer test and 550 for the pencil test on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
- ✓ Those who are not citizens or permanent residents of the U.S.A. must provide a valid student visa

COST, FINANCIAL AID, AND SUPPORT

Fees	Costs
Tuition	\$845 per unit
Quarterly Fees	\$900 per quarter
Books & Supplies	\$3,000 (approx.)
Clinical Training	\$2,100
ACLP Eligibility Assessment	\$75
Total Costs (Approximately)	\$71,005

Some scholarships are available from Loma Linda University for students who meet eligibility. Resources and answers to questions regarding financial aid, student finance, Federal Work Study, and other questions related to funding and other financial inquiries can be found through the link below.

<https://home.llu.edu/campus-and-spiritual-life/student-services/financial-life>

CURRICULUM

Core Courses

<u>CFSG 584</u>	Global Health	3
<u>CHLS 501</u>	Hospitalized Infant and Toddler Development	3
<u>CHLS 502</u>	Introduction to the Child-Life Profession	3
<u>CHLS 503</u>	Preparation for Clinical Placement	3
<u>CHLS 504</u>	Child Life Administration and Program Development	3
<u>CHLS 505</u>	Cross-Cultural Perspectives in Health Care	3
<u>CHLS 506</u>	Therapeutic Play for Children Affected by Illness and Injury	3
<u>CHLS 507A</u>	Aspects of Illness and Disease	3
<u>CHLS 507B</u>	Aspects of Illness and Disease	3
<u>CHLS 508</u>	Grief and Loss	3
<u>CHLS 509</u>	Child-Life Assessment	3
<u>CHLS 604</u>	Child Life Internship Seminar I	4
<u>CHLS 605</u>	Child Life Internship Seminar II	4
<u>CHLS 606</u>	Parenting Medically Fragile Children	3
<u>CHLS 607</u>	Child Life Professional	3
<u>CHLS 608</u>	Child Life Practicum	1

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Cross-listed Courses

<u>COUN 576</u>	Exceptional and Medically Challenged Children	3
<u>COUN 584</u>	Advanced Child and Adolescent Development	3
or <u>MFAM 584</u>	Advanced Child and Adolescent Development	
<u>MFAM 501</u>	Research Tools and Methodology: Quantitative	3
<u>MFAM 515</u>	Crisis Intervention and Client-Centered Advocacy	3
<u>MFAM 516</u>	Play Therapy	2
<u>MFAM 553</u>	Family Systems Theory	3
<u>MFAM 568</u>	Groups: Process and Practice	3
<u>MFAM 644</u>	Child Abuse and Family Violence	3
or <u>COUN 644</u>	Child Abuse and Family Violence	
<u>RELR 568</u>	Care of the Dying and Bereaved (or equivalent)	3

Total 74 units

OUR STUDENTS AND GRADUATES

Over the history of our program, four countries and ten states have been represented. Demographically, 98% of our students have been female and 2% male. Regarding race/ethnicity, 30% of our students identified themselves as Caucasian, 10% Black (which is inclusive of African-American, Afro-Caribbean, and African students), 15% Asian (which is inclusive of Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Korean and Vietnamese students), 42% Hispanic and 1% Middle Eastern. A variety of different religions and denominations are also represented within the department. Among full time students, 98% percent of students have finished the program in 2 years.

Graduates from our program have worked in a variety of settings. Below is a brief summary of what our students have gone on to do after graduation.

Career	Percent
Child life specialist in a free standing children's hospital	33%
Child life specialist in a children's hospital within a medical center	27%
Child life specialist in a medical center	11%
Child life specialist in a hospice and/or palliative care setting	11%
Community agency	10%
Other	8%

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PROGRAM, IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES OR TO PLAN A VISIT

For more information about our program, including important dates and deadlines, please visit:

<https://behavioralhealth.llu.edu/academics/counseling-and-family-sciences/ms-child-life-specialist>

To apply, plan a visit or attend an upcoming Open House or Information Session, feel free to contact the program director with the information provided on the second page, or visit:

<https://home.llu.edu/education/how-apply>