Advising Recommendations for HDFS Career Interest (CI) Option

*Students must earn a “C” or better in courses to count towards the career interest requirement. CI courses may NOT double-count for AUCC or other HDFS requirements.

These lists are to assist you in choosing courses in your career interest area. Read carefully below – some of the lists are solely recommendations for career interest courses in that area; other lists specify the exact requirements for a particular program or certification.

Child Life Specialist

If you are interested in a career as a Child Life Specialist, you should review the Child Life Handout and make an appointment to meet with Dr. David MacPhee, who specializes in advising students on the requirements for the career emphasis in Child Life. Dr. MacPhee’s office is located in 319 Behavioral Sciences Building, his phone number is (970) 491-5503, and his email is: david.macphee@colostate.edu

The following courses are all required for those seeking a career emphasis in child life. Students simply wanting to take some of these courses to fulfill their career interest requirement must choose at least 5 courses consisting of a minimum of 14 credits from any of the pre-approved Career Interest handouts (i.e., Early Childhood and Elementary Education/ Children and Families, Adolescents and Families, Adulthood and Aging, Health Professions, Research/Graduate School, or Child Life Specialist. One course must be from a Career Interest (CI) list and one course must be from a Lifespan (LS) list.

- BMS 300-Principles of Human Physiology (4 cr.) *see prerequisites below
- HDFS 286- Practicum (3 cr.) this course is strongly recommended but not required. See note below.
- HDFS 332- Death Dying & Grief (3 cr.)
- HDFS 404- Child Life Theory and Practice (2 cr.)¹ and OT 215- Medical Terminology (1 cr.)²
- HDFS 401- Childhood Socialization (3 cr.)
- PSY 460- Child Exceptionality& Psychopathology (3 cr.) or OT 355- Disability Experience in Society (2 cr.)

***Additional Requirement – HDFS 488 (field placement) should be completed at the Early Childhood Center, in combination with HDFS 477. At the end of their HDFS degree program students will also complete the hospital-based internship required for Child Life certification. Meet with Dr. MacPhee at least 8 months prior to the desired internship semester for more details.

***Child Life Practicum (HDFS 286): Students are strongly encouraged to participate in a Denver hospital-based placement and count the 90 practicum hours towards their 100 required volunteer hours that are required by many hospital-based Child Life internship programs. Students are encouraged to work with practicum supervisors to complete 100 hours.

Elective Suggestions:
- FSHN 150 – Survey of Human Nutrition (3 cr.)
- HDFS 217 - Creative Experiences for Children (3 cr.) strongly recommended
- HDFS 317- Special Needs in Early Childhood (3 cr.) offered only through CSU Online
- HDFS 351- Promoting Early Socioemotional Competence (3 cr.) offered only through CSU Online
- HDFS 375 - Programming for Children & Families (3 cr.) strongly recommended
- LSPA 346 – Spanish for Health Care (3 cr.)
- PHIL 305B – Philosophical Issues: Medical-life science (3 cr.)
- SOWK 371A – Social Work with Selected Populations: Children & Families (3 cr.)
- SPCM 434 – Intercultural Communication (3 cr.)
- Spanish Language courses and Ethnic Studies courses are also beneficial.

¹ This two credit course is offered every other year and should only be taken by those with a sincere interest in exploring a Child Life Specialist career. May be offered online in other semesters (www.online.colostate.edu)
² This will be most beneficial if taken the semester just before graduation and the advanced Child Life internship required by the Child Life Council.

* BMS 300 Principles of Human Physiology. Prerequisite: BZ 101 or BZ 110 or LIFE 102; CHEM 103 or CHEM 107 or CHEM 111. LIFE 102 and CHEM 111 are the best preparatory courses.

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