

Missouri State University • Child and Family Development • Child Life Option

Application for admission to the Child Life Option program

Admission Requirements

1. **Completed Application Form** (online)
2. **Child Life Essay:** Typed, double-spaced essay of three pages or less addressing the following questions. (1) What is a child life specialist? (Please include foundational principles and values of the field) **and** (2) Why do you want to be a child life specialist? (More specific reasons than that you love children).
3. **GPA \geq 3.0**
4. **100 documented hours of pediatric hospital experience:** Students are required to provide documentation of 100 hours of experience with pediatric patients in a hospital environment over a 6 month period. Documentation should be from the hospital where hours were completed and include the dates and total number of hours completed. Volunteer hours should continue to be accumulated over the entirety of your child life academic journey.
5. **Two letters of recommendation (one from hospital site):** Students will provide two confidential letters of recommendation. One letter must be from the hospital supervisor where the student completed their hospital experience. The other letter must be from a non-family member and may address the student's character and skills in working with children, or from a *non-child life faculty member* addressing the student's ability to compete in a competitive academic program. Letters of recommendation need to be submitted as an attachment using professional letter of recommendation formatting.
6. **Completed or be currently enrolled in CFD 160**

Important Note About Attachments: All attached documents must be submitted in PDF or word doc form. We will not accept shared links.

Application Procedures

The Child Life Option is a selective admission program, separate from admission to the University or filing your degree program. It is recommended that you apply for the Child Life Option in the Spring of your sophomore year. Students should meet with their academic advisor prior to applying.

Applications for the Child Life Option are only accepted in the Spring semester for Fall admission.

Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on February 1. If this date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, the applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the previous Friday. Applications will not be accepted if late.

All materials can be submitted electronically via email, hand-delivered, or mailed in one packet.

- Emailed to ChildLifeStudies@MissouriState.edu
- Hand-delivered to Childhood Education and Family Studies Department Office in Hill Hall 312
- Mailed to Childhood Education and Family Studies Department Office, Hill Hall 312
Missouri State University
901 S. National Ave.
Springfield, MO 65897

Confidential letters of recommendation must be sealed and signed by the recommender or submitted directly from the email address of the recommender. (Students cannot forward an email with a letter of recommendation). Letters of recommendation can be submitted separately from the student's application packet.

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Post-baccalaureate and transfer students: Please check with your Child Life advisor about the appropriate semester in which to apply for admission. Transfer students who have not yet applied to Missouri State University must provide an official, sealed transcript with the application.

Name:

Street address:

City:

State:

Zip code:

Phone number:

MSU ID #:

Email address:

General Education catalog year:

Semester enrolled in CFD 160:

Academic advisor:

Date of application:

You will be notified by E-mail if you are admitted to the Child Life Option program.

For office use only • To be completed by CEFS staff

Student's overall GPA:

Student's grade in CFD 160:

Semester student could enroll in CFD 354:

Committee decision and comments: