

Family & Child Development Careers



What can I do with this degree?

Family and Child Development graduates are uniquely qualified for careers helping others, contributing to society, and making a difference in the lives of children and their families. Specifically, students will gain knowledge related to development across the lifespan, family relationships, family interaction, family and cultural diversity, family policy, program administration, guidance, and developmentally appropriate curriculum planning for young children.

Family and Child Studies Skills

- Knowledge of Child Development
- Empathy
- Understanding of Family Systems
- Ability to work well with people from various backgrounds
- Strong Communication
- Advocacy
- Skills working in groups
- Multi-cultural competency

Degrees and Certifications

- B.S. in Family and Child Development
- B.S. in Family and Child Development with teacher certification
- M.S. in Family and Child Development
- M.S. in Family and Child Development with a Child Life Specialist Track

Possible Work Settings

- Abuse Center
- Adoption Center
- Americorps
- Big Brother/Big Sister
- Agencies
- Camps
- Career/Employment Agency
- Center for Children's Service
- Center for the Developmentally Disabled
- Children's Home
- Children's Hospital
- Community Mental Health Center
- Corporation Child Care Center
- Crisis Line
- Day Care
- Department of Child and Family Services
- Domestic Violence Center
- Early Childhood Intervention
- Family Services Agency
- Foster Home
- Group Home
- Head Start Program
- Homeless Shelter
- Hospital
- Department of Healthcare and Family Services
- Infertility Clinic
- Learning Center
- Peace Corps
- Primary/Secondary School
- Sheriff's Department
- Teen/Youth Center
- United Way Agency
- Women's Center
- YMCA & YWCA
- Youth & Children's Ministries
- Youth Service Agency

CAREER PATHS

Some of the occupations outlined in this brochure may require additional education or training)

...in Education

Sample Job Titles

- Center Director
- Childcare provider
- Early Childhood Educator
- Teacher
- Caseworker
- Direct care provider
- Tutor
- Psychiatric Aid
- Mentor
- Early Childhood Intervention Specialist
- Family Life Educator
- Children's Museum Education Specialist
- Director of Teenage Parenting Programs
- Family Extension Agent
- Camp Counselor
- Professional Nanny

Possible Work Settings

- Early Childhood Center
- Community Agency
- School
- Hospital
- Treatment Center
- Head Start Program
- Private Homes
- Religious Organizations
- After-school programs

Professional Organizations

- Counsel for Exceptional Children www.cec.sped.org/
- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) <http://www.naeyc.org>
- Youth Services International <http://www.youthservices.com>

...in Counseling (requires Master's Degree)

Sample Job Titles

- Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)
- Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)
- School Counselor
- Play Therapist (RPT)

Possible Work Settings

- Community Agency
- Private Practice
- Hospitals
- Schools
- Psychiatric Hospitals
- College Counseling Center

Professional Organizations

- American Counseling Association <http://www.counseling.org/>
- Association for Play Therapy <http://www.a4pt.org/>
- American Association of Marriage & Family Therapy <http://www.aamft.org/index.asp>

...in Social Services

Sample Job Titles

- Caseworker
- Mentor
- Center Director
- Services Coordinator
- Women's Shelter Specialist
- Child Protective Services Worker
- Activity Director for Senior Citizens
- Foster Care Professional
- Program Development Coordinator
- Fundraising
- Grant Writer
- Houseparent



Possible Work Settings

- Social Service Agencies
- State Departments
- Nonprofit programs
- Nursing Homes
- Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services
- Women's Shelter
- Children's Home
- Adoptions Agency
- Mediation Centers

Professional Organizations

- National Association of Social Workers <http://www.naswdc.org/>

...in Child Life

A Child Life Specialist is a professional who is specially trained to help children and their families understand and manage challenging healthcare experiences, usually within a hospital setting. Child Life Specialists are skilled in providing developmental, educational, and therapeutic interventions for stressed children and their families. A Child Life Specialist acts as an advocate and intermediary for the child and family within the total health care delivery system. They also plan the health care environment in a way that supports the child's growth and development throughout a hospitalization.

Sample Job Titles

- Child Life Specialist

Possible Work Settings

- Hospitals
- Treatment Centers
- Hospice
- Specialized Camps
- School

Professional Organizations

- Child Life www.childlife.org

...in Government

Sample Job Titles

- Social Services Provider
- Rehabilitation Worker
- Program Coordinator
- Research
- Program Evaluation
- Legislation
- Advocacy

Possible Work Settings

- Federal, State, and Local Government Agencies
- Vocational Rehabilitation Services
- Military Programs and Services

Professional Organizations

- Texas Association of Business <http://www.txbiz.org>
- Texas Attorney General – Child Support Division <http://www.oag.state.tx.us/cs/index.shtml>
- Texas Department of State Health Services <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/programs/fhquery.asp>
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services <http://www.hhs.gov/>
- Social Security <http://www.ssa.gov/>

Resources

Texas State University-Student Organizations

- Family and Child Development Association (FCDA) <http://www.fcs.txstate.edu/people/organizations/fcda.html>
- Phi Upsilon Omicron (Phi U) - Honor Society <http://www.fcs.txstate.edu/people/organizations/phiu.html>



Professional Organizations

- American Educational Research Association (AERA) <http://www.aera.net/>
- American Psychological Association (APA) <http://www.apa.org/>
- Groves Conference on Marriage and Family <http://www.grovesconference.org/>
- International Association for Relationships Research (IARR) <http://www.iarr.org/>
- International Society for Infant Studies (ISIS) <http://www.isisweb.org/>
- National Council on Family Relations <http://www.ncfr.org/>
- Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA) <http://www.scra27.org/>
- Society for Family Psychology (SFP) <http://www.apa.org/divisions/div43/>
- Society for Prevention Research (SPR) <http://www.preventionscience.org/>
- Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) <http://www.srkd.org/>
- Society for Research on Adolescents (SRA) <http://www.s-r-a.org/>
- Texas Council on Family Relations <http://www.texascrf.net/>
- The Gerontological Society of America (GSA) <http://www.geron.org/>
- World Association of Infant Mental Health (WAIMH) <http://www.waimh.org>

Job/Internship Search Links

- Care.com — Child and Senior Care Listings www.Care.com
- Community Career Center <http://nonprofitjobs.org/>
- Guide to Careers in Child & Family Policy <http://cfp.igpa.uiuc.edu/>
- Idealist.org <http://www.idealist.org/>
- JuJu <http://www.job-search-engine.com/keyword/family-child-studies>
- NASW Job-Link <http://www.healthcareers.com>
- The Nonprofit Times <http://www.nptimes.com/>
- Opportunity Knocks <http://www.opportunitynocs.org/>
- Social Service Jobs <http://www.socialservice.com/>
- The Social Work Cafe <http://www.socialworkcafe.net/home.html>
- Social Work Job Bank <http://www.socialworkjobbank.com/site/>
- Social Worker's On-Line Career Center <http://www.socialworker.com>
- Texas Association of Nonprofit Organizations <http://www.tano.org/en/jobs/search.asp>

Career Library Resources

- Occupational Outlook Handbook
- O* Net
- Making a Living While Making a Difference
- Opportunities in Child Care Careers
- America's Top Medical, Education & Human Services Jobs
- Careers for Kids at Heart & Others Who Adore Children

Information for this handout compiled from:

Texas State University Career Services, Northern Illinois University, California State University Long Beach, University of Wisconsin Madison, Ashland University

www.careerservices.txstate.edu

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