

Help provide critical care

for children and families in health care settings with a Child Life concentration



PHOTO: KATHY RICHLAND

Program Specifics

44 Credit Hours

Learning Format:



Campus

Program Lengths:

Full-time: 2 years or 28 months

Part-time: 3 years

Session Start Dates:

Fall Term (full-time)

Fall or Spring Term (part-time)

Application Deadline:

January 15



Child Life Concentration, Master of Science in Child Development

Learn to advocate for children and their families in health-care settings as they cope with chronic and acute illness, injury, or trauma. As a part of the health care team, child life specialists provide evidence-based, developmentally appropriate interventions to address the psychosocial needs of children and families. They also provide outreach, support and education for caregivers and siblings. Erikson's child life concentration will help you develop specialized skills to help children and families understand their complex health care challenges and to minimize the stresses and anxieties brought on by medical procedures and the hospitalization experience.

The program meets the academic standards set forth by the Association of Child Life Professionals (ACLP). Upon completion of the degree program, you will be eligible to sit for the Child Life Professional Certification Examination.

The concentration includes six child life courses that will provide you with a foundation in effective child life practice. This program includes a two-semester internship, with a minimum of 600 hours under supervision of a Certified Child Life Specialist in an approved child life clinical program. We will support you in securing an internship with mentoring and coaching. You may choose to apply for an internship at a Chicago area hospital or to any nationally accredited clinical site for your internship.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the Child Life concentration can pursue careers as Certified Child Life Specialists in hospitals and community-based medical centers.

Why Erikson?

- A core curriculum in child development that can be applied in many settings.
- Gain real-world experience with a two-semester internship.
- Access to dedicated advisors, academic writing support, library, career services and student services.



The coursework in child development at Erikson helped me stand out in a competitive field, as I was able to demonstrate career-related knowledge that is essential for a child life specialist.”

Kelsey Davis
Erikson Institute
MS Child Development,
Child Life Concentration, '17



We Can Help

Erikson awards over \$2 million in scholarships and grants each year. Scholarship dollars are awarded for the entirety of the program. Scholarship and grant eligibility are contingent upon admission and completion of a FASFA. Additional criteria may apply. For the most up to date information on scholarships and financial aid, visit www.erikson.edu/finaid. Our dedicated financial aid staff can help you learn about the options available to you.

Our Mission

Erikson Institute educates, inspires, and promotes leadership to serve the needs of children and families so that all can achieve optimal educational, social, emotional, and physical well-being.

The Erikson Approach

Knowledge

Learn how children develop and the complex contextual factors that shape their development.

Practice

Elevate and sharpen your skills through a two-semester internship.

Reflection

Develop your reflective practice skills in our Integrative Seminars.

A high-quality education that meets your needs



Program flexibility

Attend full or part time.



Erikson culture

Small class sizes and easy access to faculty foster strong learning relationships.



Faculty expertise

Our professors are scholars and advocates for the benefit of children and families.



Industry knowledge

Erikson has over 50 years of experience in early childhood education and child development.

Erikson Institute

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PROGRAM ACCREDITATIONS AND APPROVALS: Erikson Institute is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, Illinois 60604-1411, (800) 621-7440, www.hlcommission.org. Erikson's Master of Social Work program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, www.cswe.org.