

Become a Child Life Leader

with an
Online Master of Science
in Child Development

Program Specifics

30 Credit Hours

Learning Format:



Online

Program Length:

Full-time: 20 months

Part-time: up to 3 years

Session Start Date:

Fall Term (full-time
or part-time)

Concentration:

- Child Life Leadership



Online Master of Science in Child Development, Child Life Leadership Concentration

This online program is designed for Certified Child Life Specialists (CCLS) seeking to grow their expertise in leadership and advocacy roles within the field of child life. Today's CCLS must oversee a growing number of tools, supporting the child and management of people and operations. Students will gain skills in developing and administering child life programs to produce better outcomes for children within hospital settings. As a part of the health care team, students will learn about how they can implement research to advocate for child life in many settings including outside of the hospital.

The non-licensure degree features four core courses in child development and six courses in child life leadership. The program culminates in a digital Capstone Project that allows you to implement child life research into a real-world setting. All projects will be reflective of your academic and work experiences.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of our Online Master of Science in Child Development with Child Life Leadership concentration can pursue careers as child life directors within a hospital setting. Similar roles can be found within alternative settings such as hospice care, dental clinics, judicial courts, children's advocacy centers, school districts, and private practice.

Why Erikson?

- Core courses in child development with six concentration courses to help you develop leadership and advocacy skills for child life programs.
- Faculty are experts and scholars in the field including child life directors at leading hospitals.
- We offer flexibility with full- and part-time program lengths.
- Access to dedicated advisors, academic writing support, library, career services, and student services.



Now more than ever, the role of a leader matters immensely in determining optimal results for a child life team. Our online program will help provide the vision and direction for the successful planning and operation of a child life department.”

Samina Hadi-Tabassum, EdD
Clinical Professor
Director, Child Life



We Can Help

Let us help you work up your career ladder. Erikson awards over \$2 million in scholarships and grants each year. Scholarships 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 digital Capstone Project.

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.



100% online

Learn anytime, anywhere, on any device.

Erikson Institute

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