What is Child Life?
Certified Child Life Specialists are educated and clinically trained in the developmental impact of illness and injury. Their role helps improve patient and family care, satisfaction, and overall experience.

In both healthcare and community settings, Certified Child Life Specialists help infants, children, youth and families cope with the stress and uncertainty of acute and chronic illness, injury, trauma, disability, loss and bereavement. They provide evidence-based, developmentally and psychologically appropriate interventions including therapeutic play, preparation for procedures, and education to reduce fear, anxiety, and pain. (https://www.childlife.org/the-child-life-profession)

- **Child Life is a graduate level program** at the University of Iowa (MS in HHP without Thesis-Child Life)
  - 9-10 openings available annually; applicants are nationwide. Deadline for fall admission: Feb.1.

- **Required to apply:**
  - 3.0 G.P.A. or higher
  - **One course** in Human Anatomy
    - HHP:1100 Human Anatomy
    - HHP:1150 Human Anatomy with lab
    - HHP: 1400 Human Anatomy & Physiology
  - **One course** in Medical Terminology
    - CLSA:3750 Medical Terminology
  - **Two courses** in Child Development. Options include:
    - PSY:2401 Introduction to Developmental Science
    - HHP:2130 Human Development Through the Lifespan
    - PSQF:4106 Child Development
  - Minimum of 100 verified hours of experience in a Child Life or pediatric care setting. (paid or volunteer)
  - Three letters of recommendation; at least one from a Child Life Specialist

- **Strongly recommended**: TR:1077 Introduction to Child Life

**Application information** for the graduate program including the admissions requirements for the graduate college: https://clas.uiowa.edu/hhp/graduate/application-and-admission

**Undergraduate to Graduate (U2G) BS in Therapeutic Recreation/MS in Child Life**

Students may complete a Bachelor’s Degree and Master’s Degree in 5 years. This is a highly competitive program.

- Must enroll in the Therapeutic Recreation (BS) major
- Complete a minimum of 80 sh at the time of admission to the U2G program, a minimum of 30 sh earned at U.I.
- Complete all General Education CLAS Core requirements
- Complete all Child Life Pre-requisites (above, including TR:1077) and all Therapeutic Recreation major requirements
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.25

For more information about the programs at U. I., contact Emily Mozena: Emily-mozena@uiowa.edu, 319-335-3822

More information about the Child Life profession and the Certification can be found at: https://www.childlife.org/certification/students/requirements-after-2019

* May be offered during the summer, either in person or online—check MyUI for offerings
* Fulfills a pre-Child Life pre-requisite; not all Child Life pre-requisites are fulfilled by only completing the Therapeutic Recreation major

Planning tool only. Consult Degree Audit for your requirements. Updated: Dec. 2019
Recommended Plan of Study for U2G BS in Therapeutic Rec to MS in Child Life

Discuss sequencing of courses with your Academic Advisor. This is only a possible recommendation.

Year One:
PSY:1001 Elementary Psych, OR SOC:1010 Intro do Sociology, TR:1070 Perspectives on Leisure and Play, HHP:1400 Human Anatomy and Physiology
Students lacking a strong background in Biology may benefit from a Biology class prior to HHP:1400. Anatomy and Physiology may be taken in year 2.

Year Two:
CLSA:3750 Medical Terminology, HHP:2130 Human Growth and Development through Lifespan, TR:1077 Intro to Child Life, TR:3160 Intro to Therapeutic Recreation

Apply to Therapeutic Recreation no later than the end of year two, as some future classes require admittance to major.

Year Three:
TR:1061 Recreation Leadership and Programming, PSY:2930 Abnormal Psychology

Apply to MS degree in Child Life

Year Four:
TR:3161 TR Assessment, TR:4190 Pre-internship seminar, TR:4191 Internship (summer)
Coursework in MS program

Year Five: Complete MS coursework

General Child Life Certification Information

Those seeking certification must either graduate from an ACPL-endorsed child life program or complete required coursework as outlined on the website and sit for the Child Life Professional Certification Exam:
https://www.childlife.org/certification/students

Child Life Academic Programs (by state) found here: https://www.childlife.org/certification/certification-resources/child-life-academic-programs

Planning tool only. Consult Degree Audit for your requirements. Updated: Aug. 2019