

Child Life and Community Health – graduate certificate

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

We recommend that your current transcripts are evaluated by the Association of Child Life Professionals (ACLP). The ACLP is the organization that will determine if your coursework meets the specific course requirements. Here is a link to the eligibility assessment <https://www.childlife.org/certification/candidates/eligibility-assessment>. You will receive an evaluation report showing which courses were approved, please be sure to include it with your UFV application.

The ACLP eligibility assessment will inform students if they meet the child development and Family Systems courses adequately or if they might need to take additional coursework in this regard. A Family Systems course

covers ecological systems theory of families. [At UFV, we offer the following courses: CYC168 and ECE224](#) and child development: CYC 100 and CYC 120.

IMPORTANT PROGRAM DETAILS

- Competitive entry: meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission
- Small cohort of maximum 12 students
- Application period (Fall 2024 intake): October 1, 2023 – February 2024 | Deadline to apply and be considered is February 2024

APPLICATION/PROGRAM START INFORMATION

Visit <https://ufv.ca/admissions/programs-accepting-applications/> for official program application information.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAMILY SYSTEMS COURSES OFFERED AT UFV

Applicants can have their transcript assessed by the ACLP to see if they will be granted the Family Systems course as a result of covering it across several courses. A Family Systems course covers ecological systems theory of families. The courses listed below would meet the Family Systems course requirement. To be eligible for one of these courses email cyfsinfo@ufv.ca for instructions.

ECE 224

Working with Families

Prerequisite(s): Admission to the Early Childhood Education diploma, or department head's permission.

This course examines public and government policy, social issues, and cultural influences as they relate to and affect children and their families. Both historical and contemporary perspectives will be explored. This examination will include a review of theoretical underpinnings, while emphasizing practical applications.

CYC 168

Social Constructs of Families and Groups

Prerequisite(s): Admission to the Bachelor of Arts in Child and Youth Care.

Focuses on how groups and families are constructed in Canadian society. Group, family, and community services will be explored in context. Cycles of family violence will be explored.

Note: Students with credit for CYC 268 cannot take this course for further credit

CHILD DEVELOPMENT COURSES OFFERED AT UFV

The courses listed below would meet the child development course requirement. To be eligible for one of these courses email cyfsinfo@ufv.ca for instructions

CYC 100

Social Constructs of Families and Groups

Prerequisite(s): Admission to the Bachelor of Arts in Child and Youth Care or permission of the department head.

This course focuses on human growth and development from conception to age two. It considers the theories of change in cognitive, social, psychological, and physical domains during this period.

Note: Students with credit for ECE 100 cannot take this course for further credit.

CYC 120

Human Development II for Child and Youth Care

Prerequisite(s): Admission to the Bachelor of Arts in Child and Youth Care and C+ or better in (CYC 100 or ECE 100), or permission of the department head.

A continuation of CYC 100, focusing on human growth and development from age two to adulthood. The theories of change in cognitive, social, psychological, and physical domains during this period are considered, with an emphasis on current research.

Note: Students with credit for ECE 120 cannot take this course for further credit.

COURSE-BASED GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

The Child Life and Community Health Graduate certificate at UFV is course-based with a clinical internship of 600 hours after coursework is completed. Visit <https://www.childlife.org/certification/becoming-certified> for more information about the Internship (clinical hours)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The field is competitive, it takes time and patience to get a job. Many of our graduates find employment in the hospital and related positions.

WHAT IS THE COURSE SCHEDULE?

Please review the Child Life and Community Health - Graduate certificate Course Schedule 2024-2026 document located at www.ufv.ca/child-youth-family-studies/info-sessions/

*All courses must be completed before students can proceed to internship

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM OF A BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Applicants must complete an undergraduate degree (Child and Youth Care, Education, Psychology, Social Work, or other allied degree) from a recognized post-secondary institution with a minimum GPA of 3.00 (B average).

PRIOR COURSEWORK

Applicants must have either graduated from an ACLP-endorsed degree program or have successfully completed specific prerequisite courses (listed below) as outlined on the ACLP website (www.childlife.org) as part of their previous degree. Prerequisite academic courses include:

- Minimum of two Child Development courses
- Family Systems course
- Research course
- Three additional content-related courses (e.g. Ethics, Anatomy and Physiology, Medical Terminology, Counselling, Psychology, Therapeutic Recreation, Human Development, Family Studies, Sociology, Social Work, Early Childhood Education, Nursing)

If students have taken a play, grief, and loss or child life courses. It is possible to bring any one course into the grad certificate from their undergraduate level courses.

EXPERIENCE

Experience working with children or youth (paid work or practicum) must be a minimum of 600 hours. Students must have completed at least 100 volunteer hours with children or youth in a hospital or health-related setting.

- We do not have a listing of available volunteer opportunities.
- It is desired that students have volunteered under the supervision of a Child Life Specialist in a pediatric hospital. The application process for internship is highly competitive and this will strengthen the experience when it comes time to apply for internship.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

Students must submit a letter of a maximum of two pages providing their education and career goals as they relate to their application to the program. The letter should address what led the student to apply and how their background has prepared them for this program.

Can be addressed to:

Dr. Christine Slavik
Associate Professor
UFV Child, Youth, and Family Studies department

REFERENCES (THREE)

Three reference letters are required, including at least one academic reference and one employment/professional reference.

To strengthen your reference letter, be sure to speak to your knowledge, experience, and ability to do this program.

The letters can be submitted with your application or sent in by the referees to the admissions department. Visit www.ufv.ca/admissions/contact/ for the admissions contact information.

Can be addressed to:

Dr. Christine Slavik
Associate Professor
UFV Child, Youth, and Family Studies department

LANGUAGE COMPETENCY

Applicants must meet the Degree/diploma level English language proficiency requirement. For details on how this requirement may be met, see the [English language proficiency requirement](#) section of the calendar. Students whose first language is not English may be required to satisfy the University and the Graduate Program Committee with their proficiency in English.

RESUME

A complete work, education, and practicum history résumé is required. The résumé must clearly differentiate paid employment from volunteer/unpaid work.

- No page limit

BASIS FOR ADMISSION DECISION

Admission to the Graduate certificate in Child Life and Community Health is on a competitive basis. Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission.

This certificate prepares people to work with vulnerable populations. To ensure that the strongest, most suitable candidates are selected, points are awarded for performance on seven criteria.

Students will be ranked based on the points earned for the criteria listed below:

1. Academic history/GPA (up to 40 points for those who have the prerequisite degree and coursework)

- Cumulative GPA from the undergraduate degree being transferred in
- 2. Work experience (up to 20 points)
- 3. Volunteer experience (up to 15 points)
- 4. Letters of reference (up to 15 points)
- 5. Letter of intent (up to 10 points)

APPLYING

APPLICATION PERIOD

Visit <https://ufv.ca/admissions/programs-accepting-applications/> for intake information and the application period. Admission to the Graduate certificate is on a competitive basis. Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission.

Deadline to submit application: February 2024

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS – SEND TO ADMISSIONS@UFV.CA

- Statement of intent outlining experience and career objectives.
- Official transcripts (or interim transcripts) from all post-secondary institutions attended showing grade/course achievement as per entrance requirements. To be considered official, transcripts must be sent directly to UFV from the originating institution; see the [Transfer Credit](#) section for details.
- Résumé.
- Three reference letters (at least one academic and one employment/professional).