

## Sample Plan to meet Child Life Specialist Requirements

If you want to qualify as a Child Life Specialist, you will need to complete 10 child development courses required for Child Life Specialist certification. Once your courses have been completed, you will need to complete a Child Life Internship and pass the Child Life Certification exam. The ECS Department does not currently provide an internship opportunity, nor does SSU host the exam. However, your advisor can provide additional information about how to complete these requirements, or you can visit the website of the [Association of Child Life Specialists](#).

	<p><b>Required Courses for Child Life Certification</b></p> <p><i>These seven courses are required, but remember that you will need an additional three courses in a relevant topic before completing an internship and taking the exam.</i></p>
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>EDEC 110</b> Understanding Development: Birth through Adolescence (3 - also meets GE Area E)
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>EDEC 270</b> Children and Families in a Diverse Society (4)
<b>Year 3 or 4</b>	<p><b>EDEC 440</b> Child Life Theory and Practice* (3)  <b>EDEC 442</b> Children's Grief and Loss  <b>EDEC 444</b> Therapeutic Play in Medical Settings (3)  <i>*We offer one of these each semester. The order is EDEC 440 (theory and practice)-&gt; 442 (grief and loss, Fall 2024) -&gt; 444 (therapeutic play</i></p> <p><b>EDEC 411</b> Infant/Toddler Development (3)  OR  <b>EDSS 418</b> Adolescent Development (3)</p>
<b>Year 4</b>	<b>EDEC 460</b> Introduction to Research in Early Childhood Studies (4)
	<p><b>Suggested Courses for Child Life Certification</b></p>
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>EDEC 220</b> Child Observation with Field Experience* (4)
<b>Year 3 or 4</b>	<p><b>EDEC 450</b> Empowerment and Equity for Children and Families (3)  <b>EDSP 432</b> Young Children with Special Needs (4)</p>

\*Prerequisites:

- EDEC 110 is a prerequisite for EDEC 220
- EDEC 440 is a prerequisite for EDEC 442 and EDEC 444

This plan is a sample only - except for the one prerequisite, the course sequence can be changed. Please consult with the School of Education advisor or the [ECS Minor Faculty Advisor](#) to plan your individual course of study.