FACS 189- Child Life Specialist
Fall 2024- Online

Instructor information

Instructor	Email	Best Form of Contact
Mary Hecht, MS, CCLS, CFLE	mary.hecht@wku.edu	Email

General information

Course Description

This course is designed to allow students interested in Child Life to acquire some of the fundamental skills in helping children and families cope with the stress of a healthcare experience. Child Life programs strive to promote optimum development of children, adolescents and families, to maintain normal living patterns, and to minimize psychological trauma. Child Life specialists, as members of the healthcare team, maintain, enhance, and maximize normal growth and development through play, education, advocacy, and therapeutic interventions. At the completion of this course, students will be able to promote the essential child life goals of minimizing stress and anxiety, promote coping, and promote normal development.

Course Rational

To meet the education requirements set forth by the Association of Child Life Professionals, students must complete a total of 10 college-level courses in child life or a related department/subject including a minimum of one child life course taught by a Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS). The required child life course must have a focus on children in the healthcare environment and must be taught by a CCLS.

Course Objectives

1. To examine current research literature and methodology concerning children and health care
2. To acquire an understanding of the nature of childhood illnesses
3. To research therapeutic techniques that enable children and their families to prepare for and cope with health care experiences

Course Outcomes

Students will understand the skills and education needed to:

1. Provided developmental assessments
2. Use age-appropriate preparation for procedures, treatments and diagnosis teaching
3. Help develop coping strategies
4. Utilize therapeutic play and activities
5. Promote family-centered care, highlighting the support for siblings
6. Help decrease stress of hospitalization
7. Gain understanding of procedural support and alternative focus
8. Identify grief, bereavement, trauma and other issues the will need debriefing

Course Materials

Gaynard, L (et al). 1998. Psychosocial Care of Children in Hospitals. Child Life Council. Rockville MD. Thompson, R. H. (Ed.). 2009.

The Handbook of child life: A guide for pediatric psychosocial care. Springfield: Charles C.   Thomas. Thompson, R. H. and Stanford, G. 1981.

Child Life in Hospital, Theory and Practice. Springfield: Charles C. Thomas.

You are responsible for obtaining your books by the beginning of the semester.

Additional articles for reading may be required. These articles will be posted on Blackboard.

Note:

- *Blackboard issues: 270-745-7000*
- *If you cannot post to Blackboard or have difficulty posting, call: 270-745-7000 (Information Technology)*
- *If you do not know anything about Blackboard, training is provided at wku.edu/it. You may also call the afore-listed phone number for Information Technology.*
- *I cannot teach you Blackboard or assist you with Blackboard problems. IT has been designed to assist you with that.*

Method of Instruction

This course will be conducted on the Internet, and it will not meet in a classroom. Being self-motivated and able to work independently is important for success in this class.

1. Group discussion via online discussion board.
2. Independent reading in textbooks and supplemental material including internet sites requiring Adobe Reader and PowerPoint presentations.
3. Group and individual written projects submitted in Microsoft Word or designated forms.
4. Viewing of videos and audio on the internet.
5. Completion of weekly work/assignments.
6. Creative student production to demonstrate knowledge.

Course Requirements

1. Regular use of a computer with internet access and a web browser.
2. Familiarity with surfing the internet, reading email and sending email.
3. An activated WKU email account that is checked daily (all email will be sent to a WKU email address and only to a WKY email address).
4. Access to Adobe Reader.
5. Ability to read PowerPoint slides.
6. Ability to view videos and audios on internet.
7. Ability to create videos and audio files and post them on the internet.
8. Actively participate in class via online activities.
9. Submit designated written assignments in Microsoft Word or other designated programs via Blackboard. Works and Word Perfect are NOT accepted.
10. Complete weekly online assignments.
11. Complete online exams.
12. Maintain professionalism online by being respectful of comments by other students, never being rude, not using inappropriate language, or other such activity. Violation of this standard will lower your grade.

Evaluation

Your grade for the course will be based on the assignments listed below. Class participation may be considered, as well as improvement over the semester. All exams and assignment boxes will open Sunday evening for the start of each "week" as listed on the syllabus if not earlier.

Materials containing plagiarism (see Academic Integrity Policy below) will NOT be graded and you will receive a "0" for the assignment. This means that you MUST reference all materials from other sources AND use quotation marks according to APA guidelines. Never use more than 2 direct quotes in any one assignment.

Exams: Students' knowledge about child development will be evaluated through four exams. These exams will cover all readings and class material for the defined section of the class. The exam may include objective (e.g., fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice, short answer) and essay questions. There will be NO MAKEUP exams except under extreme situations with proper documentation (e.g., doctor's note, funeral program) and when I am notified in advance.

Activity Plans: Two activity plans will be completed during the semester—an individual activity plan and a group activity plan.

- 2 resources will be used for each activity to support therapeutic goals
- You are not expected to do this with a child however it does assist you when writing up the activities
    1. Individual activity plan: Each student will submit a developed activity plan for an individual child who cannot get out of bed/leave the hospital room. This plan will address specific therapeutic goals for the patient.
    2. Group activity plan: Each student will submit a developed activity appropriate for a hospital playroom group setting. Remember, there could easily be children from age 3 to age 10 in a playroom at the same time. Plan accordingly.

Research Paper: The research paper will contain detailed information about a specific disease/chronic condition. It is expected that the paper will include how the disease/chronic condition affects the patient from infancy to young adulthood, and how the child life specialist provides services for each developmental stage. Do not forget that child life specialists provide family-centered care so remember to include interventions for family, siblings, etc.

- Summary of physiological aspects of the disease (30 points)
- Summary of psychological aspects of the disease (30 points)
- Summary of child life objectives and, (40 points)
- Plans for interventions (40 points) and intervention activity (40 points)
- Use of minimum 4 references (20 points) Paper should be at approximately 6 pages.

Examples of diseases/chronic conditions: Spina Bifida, Guillain- Barre Syndrome. Hypospadias, Trecher Collins Syndrome, Asthma, Muscular Dystrophy, Cerebral Palsy, Gastroschises, Crohn's Disease, Osteogenesis Imperfecta, Cancers (ALL, AML, Neuroblastoma, Medulloblastoma, Lymphomas, Wilms's Tumor, Retinoblastoma, Rhabdomyosarcoma, Osteosarcoma, Ewings's Sarcoma), etc. If you have another disease/condition of interest, this MUST be discussed with the instructor prior to writing your paper.

Discussion Boards: Throughout the semester a variety of assignments and participation activities will be given each week. These assignments cannot be made up if missed and no late work will be accepted. Quality of work will be graded, and points will be lost if answers do not pertain to the topic and/or if they are not well thought out. Some of these assignments will be on the discussion board. Your discussions points will be based on the interaction that you have on the discussion board. Topics will be posted on Monday of each week. Remember, these are to be quality responses

that come from your own thoughts and are supported by your readings. A rubric explaining the discussion expectations will be posted.

All original answers on discussions boards are due by 11:59 pm Thursday of the week the question is assigned. Discussion responses to classmates are due by 11:59 pm Sunday of the week the discussion board is assigned.

All other weekly assignments are due by 11:59 pm Sunday. Due dates for all materials for this class are listed on the FACS 189 Class Schedule.

Grading Procedure

I grade on a percentage scale based on your total number of points compared to the total number of points available for the class as follows:

A = 100-90% B = 89-80% C = 79-70% D = 69-60% F = anything below 60%

Grade	Points
A	100-90%
B	89-80%
C	79-70%
D	69-60%
F	<60%

Item	Points
Exams (x3)	300
Research Paper	200
Activity Plans (x2)	100
Discussions (x8)	80
Total	**680**

Course Policies

1. **SYLLABUS POLICY:** The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus and post a revised copy on the web or disseminate the revision by email at her discretion.
2. **MAKE-UP POLICY:** No make-up work will be accepted for weekly assignments. Makeup work will ONLY be accepted for large assignments (critical papers, observation materials and tests) when the Instructor is contacted in advance and arrangements are made and only in extreme situations (e.g. family death, major illness, hospitalization). *NOTE: Discussion postings will not be accepted late.*
3. **COMPUTER ISSUES POLICY:** Computer issues are not an acceptable excuse for work not submitted. However, I do understand that there can be Blackboard glitches that are out of your control. If you have a problem with Blackboard, you MUST call the WKU IT Helpdesk immediately and obtain a receipt verifying the problem. NO adjustments will be made due to computer issues without a receipt sent directly to me from the IT Helpdesk.
4. **DROP POLICY:** Current university policy applies. Non-attendance does not constitute a withdrawal. Students are not automatically dropped from classes at WKU.
5. **LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:** Late work for weekly assignments will NOT be accepted. Late exams will NOT be accepted. Late work will only be accepted for the Observation Assignment. A 10% deduction will be taken for every day the paper is late. If you submit an assignment after the due time that counts as one day late and the deduction will be taken. If you enroll late, you will NOT be able to make up assignments with past due dates for credit.
6. **PROJECT SUBMISSION POLICY:** NO course work will be accepted VIA EMAIL. Any emails containing work will be deleted. Be certain to upload your work and projects in the correct assignment folder. A 50% deduction will be taken for ALL materials uploaded in the incorrect location. Once an assignment is submitted it is considered your final paper, even if it uploaded before the due date. *Materials MUST be submitted either in .pdf, PowerPoint, Publisher, or Word. Other formats are not accepted and will NOT be graded.*
7. **INCOMPLETE POLICY:** Incompletes will be granted only in very unusual circumstances and in cases in which the student is both already passing the course and has a reasonable possibility of completing the material.
8. **CLASSROOM CONDUCT POLICY:** Conduct for this class is the responsibility of the student to conform to conduct conducive to learning by being prepared, prompt, attentive, and courteous in the online classroom and by conforming to policies set by the teacher to maintain an academic

decorum. Anything that is done to disrupt learning in either a classroom setting or online may result in a student being dismissed from that class session and receiving a "0" for participation points for that day. In an online classroom, crass and degrading comments will not be accepted.

9. **EMAIL ETIQUETTE:** Since email is a popular form of communication, it is important that respect and manners be demonstrated through email messages. The following should be part of any email to professors at WKU:
   a. Include the course and section numbers in the subject line of all emails
   b. A greeting (Dear Ms., Etc.) For me, you would want to say "Dear Ms. Hecht"
   c. Clearly written paragraph(s) indicating the question or concern you have
   d. End the message (thanks, have a great day, best wishes, etc.)
   e. Be sure and type your name at the end!!
   f. Emails that display hostile attitude, those that are inappropriate or those that contain rude messages will be returned to the student with no answer. Please be respectful of your colleagues and professors. In this class, you are looked upon by the Professor as both professionals and colleagues; respect will be given to you and is expected in return. Any email requesting information that is contained in the syllabus or assignment descriptions can be answered stating, "This material is in the syllabus or assignment procedure. Please read the information before emailing. If you then have specific questions, please send those to me after reading."

10. **WRITING POLICY:** Writing assignments for this class must be consistent with the style of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. All papers must be written in formal English: typed, correct grammar, word selection, spelling and punctuation. Errors in grammar, spelling and punctuation are unacceptable, because all university computer labs are equipped with software that includes "spell check" and "grammar check" options.

11. **COURSE REPEAT POLICY:** If you are retaking this course for any reason, you may NOT use any work submitted during the previous attempt at the class. All graded materials submitted MUST be rewritten containing ALL NEW information. Any work "resubmitted" for the same assignment will be given a zero and you may fail the class due to self-plagiarism.

Addendum: Statements Required by WKU to Be Included in Syllabus

Statements include:

1. Class attendance policy
2. Regular and Substantive Interaction in Online Courses
3. Title IX/Discrimination & Harassment
4. ADA Accommodations
5. Plagiarism Policy
6. WKU COVID-19 statement
7. Writing Center assistance
8. The Learning Center assistance
9. Incomplete policy
10. Withdrawal policy

Class Attendance for Online Courses:

Class attendance is critical for success! Attendance policies not only apply to face-to face classes, but they also apply to semester-based web classes. Registration in a course obligates the student to attend regularly. In a semester-based online class, this means signing into Blackboard for class review and/or participation at least twice each week. While On-Demand classes do not have an attendance policy, we recommend setting a calendar based on your goals and adhering to that calendar, as there are time limits for course completion. Students enrolled in FACS 191 online who, without previous arrangement with the instructor, fail to login to Blackboard during the first week of classes will be dropped from the course. Nonattendance does NOT release students from the responsibility to officially drop any course for which they have enrolled and chose not to complete. Students wishing to change their schedule or add/drop a class, may do so during set time periods. Students enrolled in

face-to-face, and term-based web courses should follow the dates published in the academic calendar. Those enrolled in On Demand courses should adhere to the On Demand timeline.

Regular and Substantive Interaction in Online Courses: The U.S. Department of Education requires that distance education courses include regular and substantive interaction between students and faculty. For more information about Regular and Substantive Interaction at WKU, please visit the Regular and Substantive Interaction in Online and Distance Learning webpage.

In this course, regular and substantive interaction will take place in the following ways: Weekly optional synchronous sessions (office hours), Class-wide feedback to weekly assignments, Weekly announcements, and Timely and detailed feedback on assignments provided within two weeks of submission for weekly module assignments and within two weeks for major projects.

Title IX/Discrimination & Harassment:

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040). Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator.

If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

ADA Accommodation:

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, Room 1074. The SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu.

Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Plagiarism Policy:

Plagiarism is a serious offense and is considered an act of Academic Dishonesty. The academic work of a student must be his/her own. Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the professor a failing grade. The faculty member may also present the case to the Office of the Dean of Student Life for disciplinary sanction. This is in accordance to the Western Kentucky University student handbook: · http://www.wku.edu/coursecatalog/index.php?subcategoryid=106 ·

Cheating in any form will not be tolerated. The policy for academic dishonesty will be followed. Student papers will be checked using plagiarism detection software. Should I learn, after an assignment has been graded, that a student has cheated in any form, I reserve the right to change that specific assignment grade to a failing grade. The student will also fail the course.

WKU COVID-19 Statement:

All students are strongly encouraged to get the COVID-19 vaccine. In accordance with WKU policy, all students must call the WKU COVID-19 Assistance Line at 270- 745-2019 within 4 hours of testing positive for COVID-19 or being identified as a close contact to someone who has tested positive. The COVID Assistance Line is available to answer questions regarding any COVID-19 related issue. This guidance is subject to change based on requirements set forth by federal, state, and local public health entities. Please refer to the Healthy on the Hill website for the most current information. www.wku.edu/healthyonthehill

Writing Center Assistance:

WKU students may request feedback on their writing via email or arrange a real-time Zoom conference to discuss a paper. See instructions and how-to videos on the website (www.wku.edu/writingcenter) for making online synchronous (Zoom) or asynchronous (email) appointments. Students may also get short writing questions answered via email; just put "Quick question" in the subject line to (writingcenter@wku.edu).

The WKU Glasgow START Center/Writing Center will be offering writing tutoring sessions in synchronous online format as well as in person, by appointment only. More information on how to make appointments and what to expect from your appointment will continue to be posted at https://www.wku.edu/startcenter/.

The Learning Center Peer Tutoring Services:

The Learning Center (TLC) provides free tutoring services that empower students to achieve academic success. Trained peer tutors are available to review course content, answer questions, and demonstrate effective study strategies. TLC offers individual appointments and group sessions (PASS) for hundreds of undergraduate courses. For more information or to make an appointment, visit www.wku.edu/tlc.

Incomplete:

A grade of "X" (incomplete) is given only when a relatively small amount of work is not completed because of illness or other reason satisfactory to the professor. A grade of "X" received by an undergraduate student will automatically become an "F" unless removed within twelve (12) weeks of the next full term (summer term excluded.) An incomplete must be removed within this twelve-week period regardless of whether the student is registered for additional work in the next term. A grade of "X" received by a graduate student, with the exception of thesis courses or similar projects, will automatically become an "F" unless removed within twelve (12) weeks of the next full term (summer term excluded). A student should work with the professor who assigned the incomplete on an independent basis in order to complete the necessary assignments. The grade of "X" will continue to appear as the initial grade on the student's transcript, along with the revised grade. A grade of incomplete is not used under any circumstances as a substitute for "F" or "W."

Withdrawal from the University:

For various reasons it is occasionally necessary for a student to withdraw from the University. Prior to the midpoint of the semester, students may use TopNet to withdraw. After the midpoint of the semester, the student should report to the Office of the Registrar to initiate withdrawal procedures. Students leaving the institution without an official withdrawal will receive failing grades in all courses in which enrolled and endanger their future status in the institution. Students withdrawing after the midpoint of the semester, a bi-term or comparable period during the summer session must consult with their professors as to the withdrawal grade. The official date of the withdrawal is the date the withdrawal is processed on TopNet, or the written notice is received in the Office of the Registrar. Students wishing to return to WKU at a later date must submit an application for readmission.

Final Note

The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus as necessary. You are responsible for all changes to the syllabus and for all information presented during class, regardless of whether or not you are currently participating in class.

Please note, I respond to emails during workdays between normal work hours (Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm). If you send me an email at a time other than outside of normal work hours do not expect a response before the next workday and note that it may take up to two workdays to receive a response.

If at any point during the semester you are concerned about your grade, you are encouraged to talk with me as soon as possible. If possible, we can set up a time to meet in person or I will contact you by phone. Please sign and submit the syllabus agreement that is attached to the link on Blackboard.

I look forward to a great semester and a wonderful time of creative learning!