

Children, Youth & Family Studies

Overview

The B.A. in Children, Youth & Family Studies equips students to lead effective programs for children, youth, and families in churches, camps, parachurch organizations, social service agencies, or other non-profit organizations.

Courses in the major provide students with comprehensive skills to work with children, youth, and families. After completing the program, students will be able to:

- articulate biblical, theological, and historical foundations
- design, implement, and evaluate effective programs
- address holistic developmental needs
- examine contextual considerations and work among diverse populations

Students, in conversation with department faculty, also have the opportunity to specialize their degree program by focusing their studies in an area of particular interest. Examples of concentration areas include:

- Children, youth, and family ministry: Church-based children's and youth programs, teaching, program administration
- Christian education: Life-long faith formation, adult education, intergenerational ministry
- Community outreach: Social services, family support centers, parachurch organizations
- Outdoor leadership: Camping ministry, outdoor recreation, adventure education
- Outreach/missions: Children's and youth ministry in an international setting
- Pre-counseling studies: Preparation for graduate-level programs

The program includes an emphasis on practical learning experiences through practicum and internship courses closely related to the student's unique interests. The junior-year practicum involves working 5-8 hours a week in a local organization and the senior-year Field Experience provides a semester-long experience working full time in a church, camp, agency, school, or nonprofit organization.

Application Process

Students apply to the degree program during the fall semester of their sophomore year. (Application dates vary for transfer students. See department chair for details). Failure to complete the application process by the stated deadline will delay registration in further courses within the major. Students must be accepted into the degree program to enroll in upper-level courses in the major. The student is responsible for any costs incurred in the application process.

Major in Children, Youth & Family Studies (44 Credits)

CYFS 210	Foundations for CYFS	[4]
CYFS 211	Models for Programming	[2]
CYFS 320	Human Development & Learning I	[4]
CYFS 321	Human Development & Learning II	[4]
CYFS 330	Counseling Skills	[4]
CYFS 335	Congregational Children's Ministry	[2]
CYFS 336	Congregational Youth Ministry	[2]
CYFS 380	Practicum	[4]
CYFS 480	Field Experience	[14]
CYFS 485	Philosophy and Practice of Ministry	[4]
Total Required Credits		[44 credits]

Minor in Youth Ministry (18 Credits)

Required courses:

CYFS 210	Foundations for CYFS	[4]
CYFS 320	Human Development & Learning I	[4]
CYFS 336	Congregational Youth Ministry	[2]
CYFS 398	Youth Ministry Spirituality	[2]
RELI 106	Service Learning Practicum/Holden	[2]

At least 4 additional credits from the following:

CYFS 211	Models for Programming	[2]
CYFS 330	Counseling Skills	[4]
CYFS 380	Practicum I	[2]
CYFS 381	Practicum II	[2]
CYFS 398	Special Topics	[1-4]
CYFS 356	Outdoor Ministry Programming	[2]
CYFS 398	Special Topic Seminar	[1-4]
CYFS 399	Directed Study	[1-4]

CYFS 499	Independent Study	[1-4]
ICUL 211	Encountering Religions & Belief Systems of the World	[4]
RELI 431	Contemporary Theology	[3]

Minor in Children's Ministry (18 Credits)

Required courses:

CYFS 210	Foundations for CYFS	[4]
CYFS 320	Human Development & Learning I	[4]
CYFS 335	Congregational Children's Ministry	[2]

At least 8 additional credits from the following:

ECED 305	Children's Language, Literacy, and Literature	[4]
ECED 398	Children in Nature	[2]
CYFS 356	Outdoor Ministry Programming	[2]
CYFS 398	Special Topic Seminar	[1-4]
CYFS 399	Directed Study	[1-4]
CYFS 499	Independent Study	[1-4]

Minor in Outdoor Leadership (18 Credits)

Required courses:

CYFS 210	Foundations for CYFS	[4]
CYFS 320	Human Development & Learning I	[4]
CYFS 356	Outdoor Ministry Programming	[2]
ECED 398	Children in Nature	[2]
RELI 106	Service Learning Practicum/Holden	[2]

At least 4 additional credits from the following:

BUSA 201	Exploration in the Business/Nonprofit Community	[4]
BUSA 210	Financial Accounting	[4]
BUSA 305	Marketing and Communications	[4]
BUSA 320	Resource Development for Nonprofit Organizations	[4]
CYFS 355	Outdoor Ministry Administration	[2]
CYFS 399	Directed Study	[1-4]
CYFS 499	Independent Study	[1-4]

Minor in Pre-Counseling Studies (24 Credits)

Required courses:

PSYC 101 Introduction to Psychology*	[4]
CYFS 320 Human Development & Learning I	[4]
CYFS 321 Human Development & Learning II	[4]
CYFS 330 Counseling Skills	[4]
PSYC 250 Research Methods	[4]
PSYC 401 Abnormal Behavior	[4]

* *Prerequisite course (must be taken before any other courses in the minor)*

Certificate of Professional Studies (CPS) in Children, Youth & Family Studies

Overview

The Certificate of Professional Studies program is designed as a continuing education opportunity for individuals who already hold a bachelor's degree. By combining courses in biblical studies and professional studies in a specialized field, students strengthen their personal faith and increase skills for professional ministry leadership. The program can be completed as a full-time student in one year (two semesters), or may be completed on a part-time basis over a number of semesters.

The certificate program in Children, Youth & Family Studies specifically prepares students to lead programs for children, youth and families in churches, camps, parachurch organizations, social service agencies, or other non-profit organizations that serve young people and families. Students devise their own program of study with the assistance of a faculty advisor. Most prerequisites for courses are waived for students in this program, with the permission of the course instructor.

The certificate is not a degree, but certifies that a student has completed academic study beyond a bachelor's degree. Courses taken in the certificate program are accredited and appear on a student's transcript as undergraduate credits.

Requirements

A total of 30 credits is required to earn a Certificate of Professional Studies in Children, Youth & Family Studies. Three components make up the certificate program:

1. Biblical Studies Component

At least 10 credits must be completed in biblical studies or biblical theology (courses generally designated RELI), providing a solid biblical foundation for the program of study.

2. Children, Youth & Family Studies Component

At least 16 credits must be completed in children, youth and family studies (courses designated as CYFS) to provide for focused study within the discipline. Courses are chosen in consultation with a faculty advisor, giving consideration to personal interests and individual academic goals.

3. CYFS Practicum Component

CYFS 380 Practicum I and CYFS 381 Practicum II are required (2 credits each), providing a hands-on experience in the field by serving several hours a week in a church or organization.

Application Process

Individuals interested in applying to the Certificate of Professional Studies program must hold a bachelor's degree in any discipline prior to enrollment.

Application to the program is made by submitting an application to Trinity Lutheran College, as well as completing a departmental application for the intended area of study (each department creates its own criteria for admission into its program). Contact the Office of Admissions for more information.