Student Reflections

“I am very much looking forward to being able to utilize what I have learned in my CAST courses to help the children and families that I am in contact with! Can't wait!”

“My CAST classes honestly pushed me to grow more than any I have ever taken, and I’ve learned so much! “

“During my first job interview, the first thing they asked me about was the CAST certificate.”

“I really enjoyed my CAST classes and had wonderful teachers. Anyone who works in anything to do with child abuse is incredible. Meeting my professors and other people in the field was very eye-opening and heartwarming for me. “

University of Missouri-St. Louis
Child Advocacy Studies (CAST) Program

Careers that Use CAST Skills

Psychology, Sociology, Social Work, Nursing, Criminal Justice, Medicine, Speech Therapy, Recreational Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Counseling, Education, and Law Enforcement.

In partnership with the
National Child Protection Training Center (NCPTC)
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Psychological Sciences
The Child Advocacy Studies program (CAST) will prepare students across multiple disciplines to be trauma-informed professionals who respond appropriately to experiences of traumatic stress and maltreatment in children and adolescents.

**CAST Certificate**

18 credit hours requiring:
- Child Maltreatment: A Multi-disciplinary Approach (CAST/PSYCH/SOC WK 4398)
- Forensic Investigations in Child Abuse and Neglect (CAST 4498)
- Child Abuse Assessment and Intervention (CAST 4598)
- 2 Electives totaling 6 credits (See right panel)
- 3 hours in a related field placement from the Criminology, Education, Sociology, Gender Studies, Psychology, or Social Work departments, coupled with a CAST seminar

**CAST Minor**

15 Credit hours requiring:
- Childhood Traumatic Stress (CAST 3290)
- Child Maltreatment: A Multi-disciplinary Approach (CAST/PSYCH/SOC WK 4398)
- Forensic Investigations in Child Abuse and Neglect (CAST 4498) ---OR---
  Child Abuse Assessment and Intervention (CAST 4598)
- 2 Electives totaling 6 credits (See right panel)

**Elective Options**

from Criminology (C), Education (E), Gender Studies (GS), Psychology (P), Sociology (S) and Social Work (SW)

- Law, Politics, and Society (C 2226)
- Youth Gangs (C 2251)
- Crime Prevention (C 3230)
- Juvenile Justice and Delinquency (C 3270)
- Violence Against Women (C/GS 4330)
- Victimology (C 4350)
- Human Relations Skills (E 4310)
- Psychology of Learning, Instruction, and Assessment (E 3312)
- Child/Family and Education and Community Involvement (E 3350)
- Introduction To Gender Studies (GS 2102)
- Marriage and The Family (GS/S 2224)
- Sociology Of Victimization (GS/S 3250)
- Domestic Violence: Theory, Problems, and Practice (GS/SW 4610)
- Drugs and Behavior (P 2200)
- Psychology Of Trauma (P 2232)
- Developmental Psychology: Infancy, Childhood and Adolescence (P 2270)
- Clinical Problems Of Childhood (P 3340)
- Developmental Psychology: Cognitive Development of Children (P 4305)
- Deviance and Society (S 2201)
- Sociology Of Wealth and Poverty (S 4312)
- Sociology Of Education (S 4356)
- Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families, and Groups (SW 4110)
- Abused and Neglected Children (SW 4601)
- Addictions: Assessment and Intervention In Social Work Practice (SW 4620)
- Social Work in Mental Health (SW 4645)

**Students will:**
- Learn about the types and effects of child trauma
- Learn about the appropriate responses to child maltreatment
- Learn to work cooperatively across disciplines
- Learn experientially through the use of training scenarios in a mock house
- Learn from a range of professionals in the child protection field

**Interested? Some Questions to ponder:**
- Will I be working with children in my future?
- Do I know how to spot signs of child abuse?
- Will I be a mandated reporter in my future career?
- Will I feel prepared to handle crisis situations involving children and families?

**Contact**

Dorothy Denny (CAST Project Director) at 314.516.7337 or dennydo@umsl.edu with any questions related to the minor, certificate, or other ways to get involved with CAST.