

## New Program

# Minor in Child Advocacy Studies

## Minor in Child Advocacy Studies

The undergraduate minor in Child Advocacy Studies (CAST) is an interdisciplinary program requiring 15 credits of training in Child Advocacy Studies. The CAST minor encompasses a group of courses focused on children, youth, and traumatic stress. The CAST minor is appropriate for students who want to explore working in a variety of professional settings with children and adolescents, many of whom may have experienced trauma.

Most courses required by the minor in Child Advocacy Studies have prerequisites. Some students may satisfy prerequisites by virtue of their prior curriculum. When this is not the case, students are responsible for satisfying the prerequisites. All required courses must be taken in residence at UM-St. Louis.

Required courses:

<a href="#">PSYCH/CAST 3290</a>	Traumatic Stress in Childhood and Adolescence	3
<a href="#">PSYCH/SOC WK/CAST 4398</a>	Child Maltreatment: A Multidisciplinary Approach	3
<a href="#">CAST 4498</a>	Forensic Investigation of Child Abuse	3
or <a href="#">CAST 4598</a>	Child Abuse Assessment and Intervention	
Electives		6

Please choose two of the following:

<a href="#">CRIMIN 2226/POL SCI 2260</a>	Law, Politics and Society
<a href="#">CRIMIN 2251</a>	Youth Gangs
<a href="#">CRIMIN 3230</a>	Crime Prevention
<a href="#">CRIMIN 3270</a>	Juvenile Justice And Delinquency
<a href="#">CRIMIN/GS 4330</a>	Violence Against Women
<a href="#">CRIMIN 4350</a>	Victimology
<a href="#">CNS ED 4310</a>	Human Relations Skills
<a href="#">ED PSY 3312</a>	Psychology of Learning, Instruction, and Assessment
<a href="#">ECH ED 3350</a>	Child/Family and Education and Community Involvement
<a href="#">GS 2102</a>	Introduction To Gender Studies
<a href="#">GS/SOC 2224</a>	Marriage And The Family
<a href="#">GS/SOC 3250</a>	Sociology Of Victimization
<a href="#">GS/SOC WK 4610</a>	Domestic Violence: Theory, Problems, And Practice
<a href="#">PSYCH 2200</a>	Drugs And Behavior
<a href="#">PSYCH/GS 2232</a>	Psychology Of Trauma
<a href="#">PSYCH 2270</a>	Developmental Psychology: Infancy, Childhood And Adolescence
<a href="#">PSYCH 3340</a>	Clinical Problems Of Childhood
<a href="#">PSYCH 4305</a>	Developmental Psychology: Cognitive Development of Children
<a href="#">SOC 2201</a>	Deviance and Society

<a href="#">SOC 4312</a>	Sociology Of Wealth And Poverty
<a href="#">SOC 4356</a>	Sociology Of Education
<a href="#">SOC WK 4110</a>	Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families, and Groups
<a href="#">SOC WK 4601</a>	Abused And Neglected Children
<a href="#">SOC WK 4620</a>	Addictions: Assessment And Intervention In Social Work Practice
<a href="#">SOC WK 4645</a>	Social Work in Mental Health
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

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Sign-offs from other departments affected by this proposal

Department	Contact Person	Phone #	Objections
S003250	Finn Esbensen	4619	No
S003750	Carole Basile	5109	No
S007250	Susan Brownell	6451	No
S007300	Lois Pierce	6384	No
S008000	Sally Ebest	5544	No

Rationale

The purpose of this proposal is to establish an undergraduate minor in Child Advocacy Studies that follows national accreditation standards of the National Child Protection Training Center. CAST courses will prepare students moving into a variety of sectors (e.g. child welfare, criminal justice, social work, mental and medical health, education) to be trauma-informed professionals who respond appropriately to instances of traumatic stress and maltreatment in children and adolescents. Research has highlighted the need for academic settings to better prepare students in the fundamentals of child protection. Social workers, nurses, and law enforcement professionals receive, on average, between two hours to two weeks of information regarding child protection before beginning their professional careers (Vieth, 2005). This specialization will be highly marketable, as a focus group consisting of child-serving professionals and employers reported that they would prefer employing graduates with CAST training, even over graduate-level education, for some positions. A CAST certificate is being proposed with similar rationale. However, while a CAST certificate will be helpful in reaching both within and outside the UM-St. Louis community, the minor will be a critical foundation for further CAST programmatic growth and will likely appeal to a broader community within the university furthering student engagement and academic accomplishment.