



Applied Psychology of Child Advocacy Studies BA

The Bachelor of Arts in Applied Psychology of Child Advocacy Studies prepares students to be trauma-informed professionals who will respond appropriately to experiences of traumatic stress and maltreatment in children and adolescents. This program prepares graduates to move into a variety of child-serving sectors. Students learn through hands-on skill development, mentoring from professionals in the workforce, and immersive learning experiences including simulations in our “mock house”. Advanced interdisciplinary coursework focuses on forensic investigations, assessment and intervention in child abuse cases, and interacting with members of multidisciplinary teams during an internship.

Career Outlook

With its strong core in Psychological Sciences coupled with its emphasis on skills expected in the workforce, the undergraduate AP-CAST degree provides the background needed for successful entry into a number of child-serving sectors including child welfare, victim advocacy, social services, education, legal advocacy, law enforcement, juvenile justice, healthcare, public policy, and residential care. The AP-CAST degree can provide the foundation for graduate training in a number of fields, including social work, mental health, law, education, criminal justice, public health, and nonprofit administration.

Future Career Options

- Adoption and Foster Care Specialist
- Case Manager
- Child Development Specialist
- Child Protection Services Worker
- Educational Advocate
- Family Support Specialist
- Juvenile Officer
- Intake Manager
- Law Enforcement Officer
- Nonprofit Organization Administrator
- Policy Analyst
- Prevention Specialist
- Psychiatric Aide/Technician
- Residential/Detention Staff
- Victim Advocate

Skills Developed By Degree Completion

- Apply empirical and conceptual knowledge of traumatic stress
- Create trauma-informed relationships with diverse consumers
- Employ critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and scientific approaches to respond to traumatic stress
- Interact effectively with professionals across multiple disciplines
- Produce written and verbal communication consistent with discipline standards
- Demonstrate professional ethics and values in the context of child advocacy
- Advocate for trauma-informed policy changes that promote the healthy development of all children, including the prevention of child abuse

Successful alumni have gone on to fulfill many of the opportunities above. Additional possibilities are taken from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Contact an advisor to discuss additional future career options.

IT STARTS RIGHT NOW

This is a sample academic map for the courses to take each academic semester/session. This map is not a substitute for academic advisement. Contact your advisor when making final selections.



UNIVERSITY STUDIES

University studies is required for all first-year students and those with less than 24 credit hours.



MILESTONE COURSES

Milestone courses should be taken in the order shown to ensure you stay on a timely and accurate path toward graduation.



SUMMER AND INTERSESSION COURSES

Don't forget that summers and winter breaks are a way to fast-track your route to degree completion – and lighten your load during fall and spring!

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2024-2025 4-YEAR ACADEMIC MAP

Bachelor of Arts, Applied Psychology of Child Advocacy Studies

Year

1

FALL SEMESTER (16 credit hours)

CAST 1000: Introduction to Child Advocacy Studies (3)
ENGL 1100: First-Year Writing (3)
MATH 1030: College Algebra (3)
PSYCH 1003: General Psychology (3)
GEN ED CORE: US History and Government (3)
INTDSC 1003: University Studies (1)

SPRING SEMESTER (17 credit hours)

CAST 2100: Communication in Child Advocacy (3)
FGN LANG 1001: Language and Culture I (5)
PSYCH 2268: Lifespan Development Psychology (3) or
ED PSY 2212: Child and Adolescent Development (3) or
PSYCH 2270: Developmental Psychology (3)
GEN ED EXPLORE: Humanities and Fine Arts (3)
GEN ED EXPLORE: Math and Life/Natural Sciences (3)

Year

2

FALL SEMESTER (17 credit hours)

CAST 2275: Ethics, Values, and Policy of Child Advocacy (3)
CAST 3295: Service-Learning in Child Advocacy (2)
FGN LANG 1002: Language and Culture (5)
PSYCH 2201: Psychological Statistics (4)
PSYCH 2245: Abnormal Psychology (3)

SPRING SEMESTER (15 credit hours)

CAST 3290: Traumatic Stress in Childhood and Adolescence (3)
FGN LANG 2101: Language and Culture III (3)
PSYCH 2219: Research Methods in Psychological Science (3)
GEN ED EXPLORE: Humanities and Fine Arts (3)
GEN ED EXPLORE: Math and Life/Natural Sciences (3)

Year

3

FALL SEMESTER (15 credit hours)

CAST 3798: Foundations of Practice in Child Advocacy (3)
ENGL 3100: Junior-Level Writing (3)
PSYCH 2211: Introduction to Biological Psychology (3)
GEN ED EXPLORE: Math and Life/Natural Sciences (3)
Elective (3)

SPRING SEMESTER (15 credit hours)

CAST 4398: Child Maltreatment: A Multidisciplinary Approach (3)
GEN ED EXPLORE: Humanities and Fine Arts (3)
Elective (3)
Elective (3)
Elective (3)

Year

4

FALL SEMESTER (15 credit hours)

CAST 4498: Forensic Investigation of Child Abuse (3)
Elective (3)
Elective (3)
Elective (3)
Elective (3)

SPRING SEMESTER (13 credit hours)

CAST 4598: Assessment and Intervention in Child Abuse and Neglect (3)
CAST 4698: Internship in Child Advocacy Studies (3)
CAST 4700: Internship Seminar in Child Advocacy Studies (1)
Elective (3)
Elective (3)

Check once completed

