



The Bachelor of Arts in

Applied Psychology of Child Advocacy Studies

Advocate for the well-being of children.

Children are our future and the most vulnerable members of society. Unfortunately, there are times when children need adults to speak out on their behalf by protecting their rights and ensuring that the children's best interest is served. Studying child advocacy generates an understanding of child well-being, the impact of traumatic stress and maltreatment, and strategies to work more effectively to protect against and respond to these incidents.

The Bachelor of Arts in Applied Psychology of Child Advocacy Studies

The BA in Applied Psychology of Child Advocacy Studies (AP-CAST) prepares students to be trauma-informed professionals who respond appropriately to experiences of traumatic stress and maltreatment in children and teens. As an applicable, innovative and accessible new degree, this major prepares graduates to move into a variety of child serving sectors. This interdisciplinary program is enhanced by hands-on skill development, immersive learning experiences and mentoring from professionals in the workforce, and is one of the first three majors of its kind in the country.

Upon completion of the BA in Applied Psychology of Child Advocacy Studies, graduates will be able to develop and demonstrate trauma-informed experiential and reasoning skills; apply empirical and conceptual knowledge of traumatic stress; think critically about how to respond to childhood traumatic stress to promote resilience in children and families; create trauma-informed relationships with diverse populations; interact effectively with professionals across disciplines; and advocate for trauma-informed policy changes that promote the well-being of all children, including those which prevent child abuse and secondary traumatic stress.

Transforming Lives

The Bachelor of Arts in Applied Psychology of Child Advocacy Studies at UMSL is earned through our College of Arts and Sciences, the academic core of the University of Missouri–St. Louis. Through academic programs offered virtually and on-campus, traditional and nontraditional students gain knowledge, skills and intellectual leadership for a variety of career paths, advanced study and/or research in many academic disciplines.

Graduates are known for their professionalism on the job and their strong sense of social justice and civic responsibility. Students in our programs engage in creative and critical thinking, learn to analyze evidence, to appreciate patterns of complexity and to reflect on important issues that impact our daily lives. Students gain skill sets to engage in a changing workplace that requires flexible, dynamic and well-educated employees.

UMSL is fortunate to have a fully functioning Child Advocacy Center on campus, giving students access to professors highly connected to current presenting issues in the field, and offering training opportunities for students in multiple disciplines while providing forensic interviewing, advocacy and treatment services for citizens of the region.

Stlouiscac.org

Serious education. Serious value.

The Bachelor of Arts in Applied Psychology of Child Advocacy Studies is designed to provide specialized knowledge, skills and training in a flexible format, with classes available in person, online and in a hybrid format. You'll learn from highly qualified educators and researchers who hold terminal degrees from some of the world's most prestigious academic institutions.

The University of Missouri–St. Louis provides the knowledge, resources, tools, skills and support students need to be successful in our programs. Our comprehensive student support services include workshops, tutoring and career services to help you develop skills and strategies to be successful in the classroom and beyond. UMSL welcomes transfer students, and our transfer specialists will assist you with getting the most transfer credits possible. We're also committed to increasing access to higher education, which is why UMSL is consistently ranked number one in affordability in the St. Louis region.

Learn more at umsl.edu/psychology

The University of Missouri–St. Louis is the largest public research university located in Missouri's most populous and economically important region. UMSL provides high-quality, affordable education to one of the most diverse student bodies in the state. No university is better connected to the surrounding region than UMSL. More than 75% of our graduates stay in St. Louis. The region needs a well-equipped workforce with mental health and child advocacy skills and UMSL is prepared to help you meet those needs. Choose the University of Missouri–St. Louis for Applied Psychology of Child Advocacy Studies.

Career Pathways

Adoption and Foster Care
Case Management
Child Protection
Child Welfare
Early Childhood Development
Education and Educational Advocacy
Juvenile Justice
Law Enforcement
Legal Advocacy
Non-Profit Service and Administration
Pre-Law
Primary and Behavioral Healthcare
Public Health Prevention
Public Policy
Victim Services

College of Arts & Sciences

1 University Blvd.
303 Lucas Hall
St. Louis, MO 63121
314-516-5501
artsience@umsl.edu
umsl.edu/divisions/artsience/

Department of Psychological Sciences

1 University Blvd.
325 Stadler Hall
St. Louis, MO 63121
314-516-5391
cast@umsl.edu
stlouiscac.org

Office of Admissions

1 University Blvd.
351 Millennium Student Center
St. Louis, MO 63121
314-516-5451
admissions@umsl.edu
admissions.umsl.edu



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