

Graduate Diploma in Child Life

Program code: 051001

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Community Medicine and behavioral sciences (Faculty of Medicine-Health Science Center) offers a study program leading to the award of diploma in child life. This program is intended to understand the effects of hospitalization and illness upon children/adolescents and their families, to understand the effects of illness and health care encounters upon young patients and their families, to know developmental milestones and informal assessment techniques, which may be used by child life specialists to understand hospitalized children and adolescents. It helps to use medical terminology in order to communicate effectively with other professionals, both verbally and in writing.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

27 TOTAL COURSE CREDITS

27 COMPULSORY (CREDITS IN PARENTHESIS)

0510-511	Introductions to child life	(1)
0510-512	Child growth and development	(3)
0510-513	Family systems, family interaction and culture	(3)
0510-514	Impact of stress on child and family and activities for coping with it	(3)
0510-515	Practical 1	(3)
0510-521	Child life interventions	(3)
0510-522	Methods and materials needed for child life programming	(3)
0510-523	Administration and legal requirements	(2)
0510-524	Practical 2	(5)
0510-525	Child life project	(1)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

0510-511: INTRODUCTION TO CHILD LIFE CR: 1

The course provides an overview of the history and development of Kuwait health care system, including the organizations and agencies serving children and their families. It introduces students to the profession of child life, development of this field and current trends and issues in child health care services internationally and in Kuwait. Explores ways in which Child Life specialists can help children and their families.

0510-512: CHILD GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT CR: 3

Introduction to growth and development of children of all ages. Examines normal milestones in areas of growth and development with particular emphasis on cognitive, psychosocial and emotional dimensions. Explores and discusses different needs, interests and common emotional issues of children in different stages of development.

0510-513: FAMILY SYSTEMS, FAMILY INTERACTION AND CULTURE
CR: 3

Combines the study of family systems theory with practical applications involving work with families using a systems approach. Explores interdependent relationships in families and their influences on individual behavior within the family system. Includes history and overview of family systems theory, different conceptual and therapeutic approaches to family systems, patterns within systems and appropriate modalities for working with a range of family units. The course also focuses on current theories of family interaction and emerging family roles. Explores the institution of family in its cultural context and examines the way in which cultural assumptions and values are embedded in the parenting process and their influence on parenting behaviors, children's development and family relationships.

0510-514: IMPACT OF STRESS ON CHILD AND FAMILY AND ACTIVITIES FOR COPING WITH IT
CR: 3

Introduces the concepts of stress and responses to stress. Discusses the impact of illness, injury and hospitalization on the child and the adjustments made by the family to external and internal stress. Presents research and clinical evidence concerning the effects of stress on children's coping patterns and explores practical methods for helping children increase their competence to cope with stress. Includes a section on families with an infant, preschool or school-age handicapped child with special needs. Also includes basic understanding of medical terminology and disease process.

0510-515: PRACTICAL 1 / CHILD LIFE PRACTICE 1
CR: 3

Provides a supervised practical experience to promote the health and development of children and family. Areas of practice are selected to provide the students opportunities for applying and relating child life principles and concepts, first in normal settings (preschools and schools) followed by hospitals where children are admitted for short periods of time.

0510-521: CHILD LIFE INTERVENTIONS
CR: 3

Explores and discusses various child life intervention strategies and techniques including play and therapeutic interventions, psychological

preparation, emotional support, behavior management, parental participation, group activities and healing environments.

0510-522: METHODS AND MATERIALS NEEDED FOR CHILD LIFE PROGRAMMING
CR: 3

Explores relationships between child life activities and child development theories, stressing the acquisition of practical skill needed for child life programming. Course focuses on knowledge of research which supports child life practice, developmental assessment, learning process, screening techniques, collaboration and communication with parents and other health care professionals, counseling skills and gaining familiarity with the medical terminology.

0510-523: ADMINISTRATION AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS
CR: 2

Course emphasizes on the right and safety of children and examines the pre-professional experiences of students and considers their transition into a professional role. Course includes child life practices and policies, ethical requirements, planning, designing, supervising and evaluating programs, interpreting observations, documentation, providing a service, work environment issues, work place issues, implementing and monitoring occupational health and safety, mandatory reporting, etc.

0510-524: PRACTICAL 2 / CHILD LIFE PRACTICE 2
CR: 5

Provides a supervised practical experience in hospital child life programs. Students will be required to systematically assess the child life issues and problems, the stress vulnerability, and plan, implement and evaluate for specific child life interventions of assigned group of hospitalized children.

0510-525: CHILD LIFE PROJECT WRITTEN REPORT
CR: 1

Provides independent and in-depth study on relevant issues in child life. Students are required to submit a formal written work describing the results of independent study.