Child Advocacy Studies Undergraduate Certificate

The undergraduate Certificate Program in Child Advocacy Studies (CAST) is an interdisciplinary program requiring 19 credits of training in Child Advocacy Studies. The CAST certificate encompasses a group of courses focused on children, youth, and traumatic stress capped by a field experience. The CAST certificate is appropriate for students who want to specialize in working in a variety of professional settings with children and adolescents, many of whom may have experienced trauma.

Most courses required by the Certificate Program 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 students must take at least one course outside their home department. All required courses must be taken in residence at UM-St. Louis.

**Required courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH/SOC WK/CAST 4398</td>
<td>Child Maltreatment: A Multidisciplinary Approach</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAST 4498</td>
<td>Forensic Investigation of Child Abuse</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAST 4598</td>
<td>Child Abuse Assessment and Intervention</td>
<td>3</td>
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**Electives**

6 credits

Please choose two of the following:

- CNS ED 3200 Interpersonal Skills in Helping Relationships
- CRIMIN 2251 Youth Gangs
- CRIMIN 3230 Crime Prevention
- CRIMIN 3270 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency
- CRIMIN/GS 4330 Violence Against Women
- CRIMIN 4350 Victimization
- ECH ED 3350 Family and Professional Partnerships within School/Community
- ED PSY 2212 Child and Adolescent Development
- ED PSY 3312 Psychology of Learning, Instruction, and Assessment
- GS 2102 Introduction to Gender Studies
- GS/SOC WK 4610 Intimate Partner Violence
- PSYCH 2200 Drugs and Behavior
- PSYCH 2270 Developmental Psychology: Infancy, Childhood and Adolescence
- PSYCH 3232 Psychology of Trauma
- PSYCH/CAST 3290 Traumatic Stress in Childhood and Adolescence
- PSYCH 3340 Clinical Problems of Childhood
- PSYCH 4305 Developmental Psychology: Cognitive Development of Children
- SOC 4312 Sociology of Wealth and Poverty
- SOC 4356 Sociology of Education

**Field Experience Options**

A field experience in a child-related field, approved and supervised by the student’s home department, is the final part of the certificate. All required CAST courses should be completed, though concurrent enrollment in one CAST course is permitted. Additionally, students must receive prior approval from the CAST program director.

- CAST 4698 Internship in Child Advocacy Studies
- CRIMIN 3280 Internship in Criminology and Criminal Justice
- EDUC 4989 Internship I
- GS 4353 Internship in Gender Studies
- SOC 4385 Internship in Sociology
- SOC WK 4800/4850 Supervised Field Experience in Social Work I

**Seminar**

1 credit

CAST 4700 Field Education Seminar in Child Advocacy Studies

**Total Hours**

19 credits

1 Simultaneous enrollment in a CAST seminar is required for all disciplines.

**Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of the program, certificate earners should be able to:

- Demonstrate the ethical behavior and values of their discipline in the context of traumatic stress.
- Integrate the current fund of knowledge about traumatic stress into their professional role.
- Generate effective responses to traumatic stress and child maltreatment using trauma-informed decision-making processes.
- Create trauma-sensitive relationships with diverse consumers.
- Use knowledge to increase consumer access to trauma-informed services.
- Formulate service strategies that reduce the impact of trauma and promote well-being.
- Interact effectively with professionals across multiple disciplines.
- Produce trauma-sensitive written and verbal communication consistent with discipline standards.
- Recommend trauma-informed policy changes within their work setting.