The Master’s of Science in Child Life and Pediatric Psychosocial Care is the first program of its kind in Canada. It is a professional and practice-focused graduate degree offered through a blended delivery of online and in-class formats. The online courses provide a highly accessible and flexible schedule while the two mandatory in-person residency courses (4 days each on campus) provide learners with the opportunity to network and engage with faculty and students.

Graduates will be prepared to incorporate and advocate for pediatric psychosocial needs and patient and family-centred care to address the diverse needs of infants, children, youth and families in pediatric health and community settings.
TWO STREAMS ARE OFFERED

Stream 1  Will provide academic and clinical training (2 internships) to prepare students with knowledge, clinical skills, and professional behaviours to practice as entry-level child life specialists.

| Full Time | 2 Years |

Stream 2  Will provide health professionals with advanced practice skills in pediatric psychosocial care, in a course-based format (no internships) to broaden their careers.

| Full Time | 1 Year |
| Part-Time | 2 – 4 Years |

STREAM 1

Stream 1 has earned graduate endorsement through the ACLP. It is offered as a full-time, 24 month long, entry-to-child life practice Master’s program. All courses are required and follow sequentially. Graduates of this stream meet child life professional certification eligibility requirements.

ADDITIONAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- A minimum of 100 volunteer hours in a child life setting
- A minimum of 2 undergraduate child development courses covering birth to 18 years

YEAR ONE

- Child Life Residency 1 (4 days on campus)
- The Child, Youth and Family in Healthcare
- Educational Research Methods in Health Sciences Education
- Pediatric Psychosocial Assessment
- Grief, Loss and Bereavement in Childhood and Adolescence
- Evaluating Evidence: An Approach to Critical Evaluation of the Literature
- The Vulnerable Child and Youth
- Child Life: Foundations of Play
- Professional Ethics
- Child Life Residency 2 (4 days on campus)

YEAR TWO

- Clinical Internship 1 (13 weeks – 360hrs.)
- Clinical Skills Seminar 1
- Clinical Internship 2 (13 weeks – 360hrs.)
- Clinical Skills Seminar 2
- Program Planning and Evaluation
- Independent Master’s Project

STREAM 2

Stream 2 students have both required and elective course options so studies can be tailored to suit continuing education interests.

The anticipated completion is 12 months (full-time) or 24-48 months (part-time). Students will acquire theoretical and applied knowledge to support child and youth coping, and recommend systems to enhance patient and family centred services in their clinical settings.

ADDITIONAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Those applying for stream 2 should have qualifications as a health professional.

REQUIRED CORE COURSES

- Pediatric Psychosocial Care Residency 1 (4 days on campus)
- Educational Research Methods in Health Sciences Education
- Evaluating Evidence: An Approach to Critical Evaluation of the Literature
- Professional Ethics
- Current Issues in Pediatric Psychosocial Care
- Independent Master’s Project
- Pediatric Psychosocial Care Residency 2 (4 days on campus)

ELECTIVE OPTIONS (SELECT THREE)

- Special Topics in Pediatric Psychosocial Care
- The Vulnerable Child and Youth
- Pediatric Psychosocial Assessment
- Grief, Loss & Bereavement in Childhood and Adolescence
- Program Planning and Evaluation
- Children, Youth and Families in Healthcare
- Other graduate elective(s) approved in advance by the program

MSc. ADMISSIONS

Applicants are required to meet admission requirements of the School of Graduate Studies:

- ✔ Honor’s degree or the international equivalent from an accredited university
- ✔ B+ average in the final year of undergraduate study