Minor in Child Advocacy Studies

Overview
The Minor in Child Advocacy Studies is offered to students majoring in a variety of disciplines, such as psychology, criminal justice, sociology, non-profit, education and nursing. It prepares students for work with children and strengthens their credentials as they seek employment or admission to graduate school. The Minor is housed under the Department of Psychology, but is attractive to any student who plans a career in a field working with children.

The Center for Child Advocacy Studies
The Center for Child Advocacy Studies provides supportive resources as well as:
- Community Outreach
- Community Resources
- Annual Conference
- Professional Education/Training
- Networking
- Research

Policy - Advocate legislation and programs to promote healthy environments for children to end child abuse and neglect.

Internship Opportunities
Students with a minor in Child Advocacy are required to complete a three credit hour internship. The students will have hands-on internship opportunities that are available through numerous agencies working directly with child welfare, such as the Department of Social Services (DSS), the Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC), the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), the Hope Center for Children, and SAFE Homes Rape Crisis Center. The internships are a great opportunity for students to get experience in fields that they are interested in.

Career Opportunities
A minor in Child Advocacy Studies will provide valuable training for students who are seeking professional careers in child welfare, law enforcement, counseling, and other careers working with children.
Coursework
The minor in Child Advocacy is a 21-hour interdisciplinary program. The course requirements are as follows:

Required Courses¹
CAST U301: Introduction to Child Maltreatment 3
CAST U401: Child Advocacy I: System Responses to Child Maltreatment 3
CAST U402: Child Advocacy II: Prevention and Intervention Strategies 3
CAST U499: Child Advocacy Internship 3
Choose one of the following courses: 3
  PSYC U101: Introduction to Psychology
  SOCY U101: Introduction to Sociology
  CRJU U101: Introduction to Criminal Justice

Course Options¹
Choose two of the following courses: 6
  PSYC U302: Developmental Psychology
  SOCY U341: Sociology of Families
  CRJU U343: Juvenile Justice System
  CRJU U350: Victimology
  CRJU U382: Women and Crime
  CRJU U384: Child Sexual Exploitation and the Internet
  CRJU U325: Criminal Trial Practice
  CAST U398: Topics in Child Advocacy (may be repeated when topics vary)

Total Hours Required 21
¹ Minimum grade of C is required for all coursework.

Student Profile
The Center of Child Advocacy Studies hosts an annual conference to educate professionals in child service fields, students and community members from the Upstate region, as well as statewide. With approximately 400 people in attendance each year, the objectives of the program are as follows:
- A greater understanding of the problem of child abuse and the serious impact on child development and the community
- Recognition of warning signs and understanding of prevention and intervention methods
- A fostering of cross collaboration among disciplines
- A call to action using learned tools
- National experts present on the most current best practices, information and tools. Students are encouraged to attend.

Silent Tears Project • http://silenttearssc.org/
The Center for Child Advocacy Studies was invited to partner with the Julie Valentine Center and the National Child Protection Training Center (NCPTC) to study the responses to cases of child sexual abuse in the state of South Carolina. Silent Tears South Carolina collected information from child protection professionals in seven counties that were selected to represent South Carolina along with a statewide online survey. With information collected from more than 600 child protection professionals, this research was used to identify the strengths of the state in its response to cases of child abuse and to identify areas of improvement. The Center remains active serving on a statewide taskforce to oversee implementation of the recommended changes.

Up. For USC Upstate.
Up is much more than a direction or a place. It’s a way of approaching life and learning. It’s making the most of every challenge, and daring yourself to achieve more than you ever thought possible. That’s the kind of academic quality you’ll find at the University of South Carolina Upstate.

From the moment students step on campus, they feel the energy of a dynamic university. USC Upstate, a senior comprehensive public institution of the University of South Carolina, is one of the leading metropolitan universities in the southeast and has been ranked by U.S. News and World Report as one of the top five Comprehensive Colleges in the South.

USC Upstate is among the fastest growing universities in South Carolina - with a 330-acre campus in Spartanburg, junior- and senior-level commuter campuses in Greenville, and a campus for the George Dean Johnson, Jr. College of Business and Economics in downtown Spartanburg. Home to 6,000 students from 26 states and 17 countries, USC Upstate offers more than 40 degree programs, over 90 active student organizations on campus, as well as 12 nationally affiliated sororities and fraternities. The University fields 17 athletic teams—known as the Spartans—which compete in the NCAA Division I Atlantic Sun Conference.

The best adventures in life are the ones that are different from all the rest. You should expect no less from your college experience. That’s what we call the Up attitude... exploring the kind of new and surprising learning opportunities that, in the end, will truly set you apart from the pack.

The University of South Carolina Upstate.
Up is where we live.

www.uscupstate.edu