Therapeutic Recreation, BS

Combined Programs

BS/MS in Health and Human Physiology (Child Life Subprogram)

The combined program allows qualified students to begin work toward a master's degree while they complete their bachelor's degree. It permits students to count certain courses toward both degrees, completing them in less time than they would need to complete each degree separately.

The completion of the two degrees in five years is designed for students who wish to pursue a career providing services to children and their families, primarily in the health care field. Graduates are eligible to be credentialed professionals in child life (certified child life specialist). They fill positions such as child life specialist, activity director, or administrative positions.

Students follow the standard curriculum of their BS degree the first two years and complete all the prerequisite courses for the MS in health and human physiology with a child life subprogram during the third year. Successful students receive a BS at the end of the fourth year and an MS at the end of the fifth year.

Applicants to the combined program must:

- be enrolled as a BS student at the University of Iowa;
- have completed a minimum of 80 s.h. at the time of admission to the combined program, with at least 30 s.h. earned at the University of Iowa;
- have completed all GE CLAS Core requirements and all prerequisites; and
- have a cumulative University of Iowa grade-point average of at least 3.25.

Applicants must submit a letter of application to the program that includes a statement of purpose, a résumé, documentation of paid or volunteer experience in a child life and/or pediatric health care setting, and three letters of recommendation.

Each application is reviewed by the program and requires support from the applicant's undergraduate advisor. Recommendations for approval will be sent to Graduate Admissions. Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; visit the Manual of Rules and Regulations on the Graduate College website.

For more information about applying to the combined program, contact the child life program in the Department of Health, Sport, and Human Physiology.