

Child Advocacy Studies



Points of Pride

- ZERO Abuse Project Certified
- Simulation labs for Experiential Learning
- Problem-Based Learning for Critical Decision-Making
- Students train with national experts
- Faculty with nationally recognized credentials and research
- CAST minor available on ground or fully online

The **CAST (Child Advocacy Studies) minor** is a collaborative approach to training and educating front line professionals, mandated reporters and the next generation of child welfare practitioners. The CAST curriculum includes core courses aimed at increasing knowledge of key child maltreatment concepts. The program adheres to the standards developed for universities, and the faculty have years of experience in the child welfare field as practitioners and trainers. UIS' CAST minor is the second program in the United States to achieve approval from the Zero Abuse Project.

Majors that partner with a CAST minor or certificate

- Criminology or Criminal Justice
- Human Services
- Legal Studies
- Psychology
- Public Administration
- Social Work
- Teacher Education
- Any major that will involve work with children

Professions

- Child Protection Professionals
- School Professionals
- Early Childhood Educators
- Law Enforcement
- Probation
- Mental Health Clinicians
- Psychologists
- Healthcare professionals



REQUIRED COURSES (15 hours)

PAD 481	Perspectives on Child Maltreatment and Advocacy	3
PAD 482	Global Child Advocacy Studies	3
Or		
PSY 484	Childhood Trauma: Risk and Resiliency	3
PAD 483	The System's Response to Child Maltreatment	3
PAD 486	Child Advocacy Studies Capstone	3
One of the following:		
IPL 300	ECCE: Internship Applied Learning	
IPL 301	ECCE: Applied Learning Project	
*Or any PAD 300 or 400 electives		

CAST CERTIFICATE Requirements (9 hours)

PAD 481	Perspectives on Child Maltreatment and Advocacy
PAD 483	The System's Response to Child Maltreatment
Choice of:	
PAD 482	Global Child Advocacy Studies or
PSY 484	Childhood Trauma: Risk and Resiliency

ZERO ABUSE PROJECT CERTIFIED

The core UIS CAST courses are certified by the ZERO Abuse Project. UIS CAST students are eligible for a certificate as proof of their knowledge, skills and abilities in child maltreatment prevention and intervention. Upon completion of the coursework, students are eligible to receive credit for both the UIS minor as well as the external certification.

SIMULATION LABS

A key feature of experiential learning is the ability to construct environments that are as realistic as one would find working in the field. The Residential Simulation Labs on the UIS Campus, which include a simulated training house and a mock courtroom, are utilized by DCFS, UIS students and other frontline professionals to provide a safe learning environment that:

- Allows trainees to practice their knowledge and skills in a supportive and safe environment where mistakes are allowed and can be corrected.
- Helps to increase confidence and competency, which increases job retention.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The UIS Child Protection Training Academy provides simulation training for frontline child protection professionals, including child advocacy center teams and DCFS, juvenile justice and school personnel. Researchers note four advantages for incorporating experiential learning in child welfare training:

- Allows students to explore ways that theories and research inform practice.
- Helps students develop skills in using their theoretical classroom knowledge in practice settings, hopefully enhancing their confidence and competence.
- Enables students to consider the ways that their personal and professional values and beliefs influence judgments.
- Increases students' ability to manage within changing landscapes by developing their skills as reflective practitioners.

For a complete list of course and degree requirements, students should refer to the UIS catalog.

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

“While reading the very first chapter of our textbook, I realized that I had never taken a class like this before. Sadly, although my life's work has revolved around children, I have never considered the enormous value of taking such a class. In addition, when I read the first seven pages of *Unto the Third Generation* and watched the video presentation, Victor Vieth had my full attention. Finally, I have come to the conclusion that I will have learned a lot from these studies. I am looking forward to the rest of the semester! It is so nice to be here, at this time, and in the place! //”

“I am beginning to see the reason behind the new CAST program at UIS. I have to admit that I initially took this class because I found it to be an interesting elective, but it is turning into something more. As mentioned in the article and in the CAST video presentation, many mandated reporters are trained 'on the job' and that was no different for me. //”

Information effective Fall 2021. Subject to change without notice. See uis.edu/uiscatalog.

LEADERSHIP lived

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