



Earn a Badge in Child Advocacy Studies

The Child Advocacy Studies (CAST) badge focuses on experiential, interdisciplinary, ethical, and culturally sensitive content, equipping professionals who work with children with a common knowledge base for responding to child maltreatment.

Program Description

The program focuses on developing students' understanding of factors that lead to child maltreatment, as well as existing responses to such incidents. This focus prepares students to work more effectively within the systems and institutions that respond to these cases.

Students explore interdisciplinary responses to child maltreatment and develop a multidisciplinary understanding of the most effective approaches. The total credit requirement for the CAST badge is 9 hours.

Nationally Recognized and Employer Valued

Developed with experts across child welfare, law enforcement, medicine, and education, the CAST credential is trusted by agencies nationwide and signals to employers that the badge recipient has completed specialized education in recognizing, responding to, and preventing child maltreatment.



Admission Requirements

- Completion of general education requirements
- Minimum GPA of 3.0 in all social work coursework (including field placements)
- Statement of interest that includes proposed career goals



SOW 4650/5656 - Child Welfare Practice (Required)

This course provides a framework of values, knowledge, and skills necessary for working with vulnerable children and their families. The primary focus is on social work in public child welfare within the State of Florida. The course utilizes an ecosystem perspective to understand and assess the unique needs of at-risk children and families. Special attention is given to assessing families and children using Florida's Child Welfare Practice Model and other family assessment tools.



SOW 4658/5659 - Child Maltreatment and Child Welfare (Required)

This course provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand the theory, research, and implications of child and adolescent maltreatment on development and well-being. Course content is presented within the context of child welfare practice and social work with children and adolescents in public agencies and programs. The course also focuses on federal and state child welfare statutes, including Chapter 39 of the Florida Statutes, the Adoption and Safe Families Act, and the range of services offered by the Florida Department of Children and Families and other agencies.



SOW 4615/5614 - Family Violence Across the Lifespan (Required)

This course provides an ecological perspective, emphasizing the interconnections between individuals experiencing violence and their social environments. Emphasis is placed on covering all important aspects of child abuse, incest, intimate partner violence, rape, and elder abuse. This course is designed for students who wish to develop skills in detecting and responding to these cases and supporting victims and survivors.



The Academic Innovation program at the Florida Institute for Child Welfare is proud to partner with universities across the state to promote the CAST program to Florida's future child welfare workforce. For questions or additional information, please contact

FICW-AI@FSU.EDU.