

Child Advocacy Studies (CAST) at NMSU

Curriculum Overview

The CAST minor is comprised of three (3) core courses and three (3) electives, worth three (3) credits each for a total of **18 credits** required for the minor.

Students must have a G.P.A. of 2.75 or higher, be admitted into the CAST minor and satisfy all application requirements. Students who have taken one or more courses required for the minor prior to application may request that those courses count toward the completion of the minor. Approval will be decided by the CAST Steering Committee.

Applications will be accepted twice a year and students may begin taking courses in both the Fall and Spring semesters. The first core course, CAST 301/SWK 490, must be taken before the other two core courses.

Electives may be taken at any time, before, after or concurrent with the core courses. Elective courses are categorized into three topics; students must take one (1) course under each topic category. **If a listed course is required for the student's major, the student must select an alternate course in the same category.** Students may request a waiver to this policy; all requests will be reviewed by the CAST Steering Committee.

All departments that offer courses in the CAST minor have agreed to allow CAST students to take the courses regardless of major. Some courses may require instructor approval. Please indicate to the instructor that you are taking the course as a part of the CAST minor.

Core Courses

Core Requirement 1, must be taken before other core courses:

- CAST 301/ SWK 490: Introduction to Child Advocacy/ Family and Child Welfare Policy

Core Requirements 2 & 3, may be taken in either order:

- CAST 302/SWK 497 Special Topics: Professional and Systems Responses to Child Maltreatment
- CAST 303/FCS 300 Special Topics: Prevention, Trauma Informed Treatment and Advocacy

Elective Courses

Category 1: Diversity/Cultural Sensitivity (select one)

- FCS 449V. Family Ethnicities and Subcultures 3 cr.
- C EP 320. Sex Roles in Education 3 cr.
- SOC 357. Gender and Society 3 cr.
- HL S 464V. Cross-Cultural Aspects of Health 3 cr.
- S WK 309. Sociocultural Concepts 3 cr.

Category 2: Family/Child Development (select one)

- FCS 380. Family Dynamics 3 cr.
- FCS 383. Parenting and Child Guidance 3 cr.
- HL S 300. Drugs and Behavior 3 cr.
- HL S 320. Human Stress Management 3 cr. ONLINE
- SWK 497 Violence in the Family 3 cr.
- S WK 443. Family and Child Welfare Practice 3 cr.
- SOC 390. Sociology of Childhood 3 cr. ONLINE
- SOC 393. Youth and Society 3 cr. ONLINE
- C EP 461. Family Guidance 3 cr. ONLINE
- SOC 359. Sociology of the Family 3 cr. ONLINE
- ECED 315. Research in Child, Growth, Development and Learning 3 cr.
- FCS 381. Middle Childhood Development in the Family 3 cr.
- FCS 446. Adolescent Development and the Family 3 cr.
- FCS 447. Infancy and Early Childhood in the Family 3 cr.
- PSY 350. Developmental Psychology: Conception through Childhood 3 cr.

Category 3: Legal and Medical Aspects (select one)

- NURS 465 Physical Assessment and Evaluation of Child Abuse 3 cr.
- SOC 392. Juvenile Delinquency 3 cr.
- C J 333. Juvenile Corrections 3 cr.
- C J 360. The Juvenile Justice System 3 cr.
- C J 345. Victimology 3 cr.
- C J 425. Issues in Ethics, Law, and Criminal Justice 3 cr.

Contact Information

The School of Social Work administers the CAST minor, but it is coordinated by a steering committee with representatives from a variety of disciplines at NMSU.

If you have questions, you may contact any of the people listed below, regardless of your academic department. Your academic advisor must sign off on any minors you complete.

Social Work:

Irma Hernandez irhernan@nmsu.edu

Dr. Timothy Barnett-Queen trbqueen@nmsu.edu

Family and Consumer Science:

Dr. Esther Devall edevall@nmsu.edu

Health Science:

Dr. Sue Forster-Cox sforster@nmsu.edu