



CFLE

Certified Family Life Educator



National Council on Family Relations

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Certification for Family Life Educators

The National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) sponsors the only international program to certify family life educators. Professionals with knowledge and experience in family life education including formal teaching, community education, public information and education, curriculum and resource development, etc. are eligible to apply. Certified Family Life Educators have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree; many CFLEs have advanced degrees.

What is Family Life Education?

Family life education (FLE) is the educational effort to strengthen and enrich individual and family life through a preventive, family perspective. Family life educators bring family research and best practices to individuals, couples, families and parents via an educational approach in order to build strengths and avert problems.

FLE emphasizes processes to enable people to develop into healthy adults and to realize their potential. Family life education can help people to work together in close relationships and facilitates the ability of people to function effectively in their personal lives and as members of society. Family life education recognizes that all families can benefit from education and enrichment programs – not only those experiencing difficulties. While various professionals assist families, it is the family life educator who incorporates a family-systems, preventive, and educational approach to individual and family issues.

Family life education includes knowledge about family dynamics and communication; the inter-relationship of the family and society; human growth and development throughout the lifespan; both the physiological and psychological aspects of human sexuality; the impact of money and time management on daily life; the importance and value of education



for parenting; the effects of policy and legislation on families; ethical considerations in professional conduct; and a solid understanding and knowledge of teaching and curriculum development for what are often sensitive and personal issues.

Where are Family Life Educators Employed?

Family life educators work in a variety of settings. They bring comprehensive family training to a myriad of employment sectors and job classifications. Often, CFLEs work in the following venues:

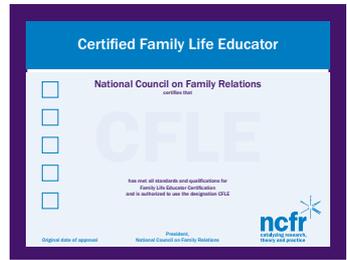
Practice - teaching, education, program or curricula development,

Administration - leadership or management, organizing, coordinating, and

Promotion - public policy, lobbying, advocating for system change and awareness. Employment venues can include health care, education, business, military, faith communities, and more.

Why Become a CFLE?

Certification recognizes a proven background and understanding in each of ten family life content areas. While CFLEs may work specifically in one discipline, such as parent education or marriage enrichment, their understanding of the many areas that affect families enables them to educate and work with individuals and families effectively. The Certified Family Life



Educator designation recognizes the educational, preventive, and enriching nature of their work. Additionally, standards identified for certification help ensure skilled practice and promote family life education as a profession.

Benefits of Certification

- Establishes professional credibility by specifying that high Standards and Criteria needed to provide family life education have been met.
- Confirms knowledge and work experience.
- Provides avenues for networking with other family life educators both locally and nationally through a newsletter, a CFLE listserv, CFLE meetings and events, and access to other Certified Family Life Educators.
- Establishes and defines the field of family life education by identifying standards and criteria needed to provide quality family life education.
- Recognizes the comprehensive breadth of expertise needed to provide quality family life education.
- Acknowledges the preventive focus of family life education.



Standards and Criteria for the CFLE Designation

*There are two levels of certification:
Full and Provisional*

Full Certification

Full certification is available to those who meet both the knowledge and work experience requirements. Applicants with a family-related degree at the Baccalaureate level need 3,200 hours of work experience in family life education to qualify for Full Certification. Applicants with a family-related degree at the Master's or Doctoral level need 1,600 hours. Applicants with a non-family related degree must document 4,800 hours of work experience in family life education.

Provisional Certification

Provisional certification is available to those with a minimum of a Baccalaureate degree and demonstrated

knowledge in each of ten family life content areas. Provisional applicants have not yet earned the number of work experience hours needed for Full Certification. Provisional Certification is granted through successful completion of the CFLE Exam or by applying through the Abbreviated Application Process. The Abbreviated Application process is only available to graduates of NCFR-approved academic programs. A list of NCFR-approved programs can be accessed on the NCFR website. **Abbreviated Applications must be submitted within two years of graduation.**

Provisional Certification is valid for *up to* five years. When Provisional CFLE's have earned sufficient work experience hours in family life education, they can upgrade to Full certification by completing the CFLE Upgrade Application.

*There are two ways to become certified:
Exam and Abbreviated*

Successful Completion of the CFLE Exam

The CFLE Exam consists of multiple choice questions. Exam questions are based on the CFLE Content Outline which is accessible through the NCFR website.

CFLE Family Life Content Areas:

Individuals and Families in Societal Contexts
Internal Dynamics of Families
Human Growth and Development Across the Lifespan
Human Sexuality
Interpersonal Relationships
Family Resource Management
Parent Education and Guidance
Family Law and Public Policy
Professional Ethics & Practice
Family Life Education Methodology

The CFLE Exam is offered three times per year – visit the NCFR website for dates and locations http://www.ncfr.org/cert/become/app_reg.asp

The Abbreviated Application Process

Provisional Certification is available through the Abbreviated Application process to students who have graduated with a minimum of a Bachelor's degree from an accredited academic institution that has been

approved by the NCFR Academic Program Review Committee. Students enrolled in approved programs demonstrate their knowledge in ten family life content areas by completing comprehensive coursework that covers the CFLE Standards and Criteria.

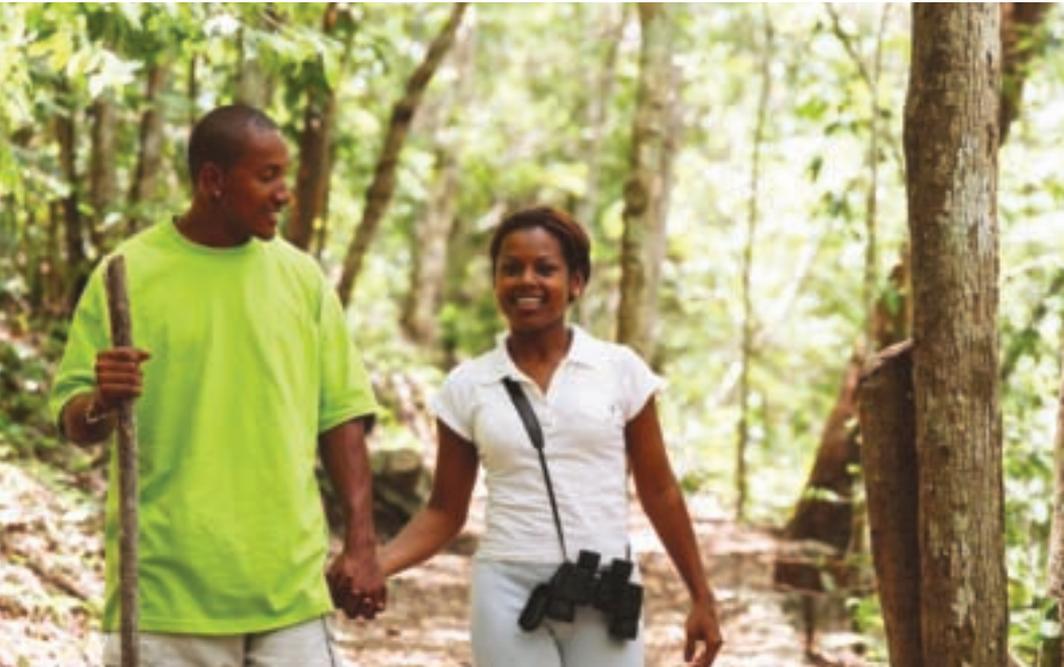
Within two years of graduation, students applying through the Abbreviated Application process complete five easy steps to receive Provisional Certification. Abbreviated applications can be submitted at any time; there is no submission deadline. Information for the Abbreviated Application process can be found at http://www.ncfr.org/cert/become/app_abbrev.asp

1. Application Form
2. Checklist of pre-approved courses
3. Application fee
4. Official transcript denoting degree completion
5. Signed copy of CFLE Code of Ethics



CFLE Requirements Summary

Level of Certification ↓	Family Degree from an NCFR-Approved Program (Earned with past two years)	Family Degree from a non- NCFR-Approved Program	Family Degree from an NCFR-Approved Program (Earned more than two years ago)	Non-Family Degree i.e., counseling, social work, business, etc.
Provisional Certification →	Complete Abbreviated Application	Complete CFLE Exam	Complete CFLE Exam	Complete CFLE Exam
Full Certification →	Complete Abbreviated Application and submit FLE Work Experience Summary form and Employer Assessment and Verification form	Complete CFLE Exam and submit FLE Work Experience Summary form and Employer Assessment and Verification form	Complete CFLE Exam and submit FLE Work Experience Summary form and Employer Assessment and Verification form	Complete CFLE Exam and submit FLE Work Experience Summary form and Employer Assessment and Verification form
Work Experience Requirement →	Bachelor's degree = 3,200 hours Master or Ph.D. degree = 1,600 hours			4,800 hours regardless of level of degree



Academic Program Review

The Academic Program Review recognizes undergraduate and graduate family degree programs that include coursework needed for approval as a Provisional Certified Family Life Educator. Approval can be given to a specified degree program or to an identified CFLE track of courses offered through several departments. Approval allows the school to offer their graduates the opportunity to apply for the Provisional Certified Family Life Educator designation using the Abbreviated Application process. Over 120 academic programs have been approved to offer the CFLE designation to graduating students. Visit <http://www.ncfr.org/cert/academic/programs> for a complete list of approved schools.

NCFR-Approved academic programs must provide applicable coursework in each of the ten CFLE Family Life Content Areas:

1. Families and Individuals in Societal Contexts
2. Internal Dynamics of Families
3. Human Growth and Development Across the Lifespan
4. Human Sexuality
5. Interpersonal Relationships
6. Family Resource Management
7. Parent Education and Guidance
8. Family Law and Public Policy
9. Professional Ethics and Practice
10. Family Life Education Methodology

Testimonials

"As an NCFR Approved program, we feel that the CFLE Certification has increased our credibility and the desire for students to enter our program. We have been pleased with the support that we receive from NCFR as well as the professional opportunities it has afforded."

*Sylvia M. Asay, Ph.D., CFLE
University of Nebraska at Kearney*

"The CFLE program provides a process of credentialing by which the quality and competence of a family life educator can be recognized when presenting expert testimony in legal settings; conducting workshops at the local, state, and national levels; and promoting quality standards with our college students who will be future family professionals."

*Carol Anderson Darling, Ph.D., CFLE
Professor of Family and Child Sciences
Florida State University*

"If I were in the process of hiring a family or parent educator, I would definitely give extra attention to job applicants who are CFLEs. CFLEs have gone through a careful application process that recognizes their expertise, and they show strong professionalism by seeking such recognition."

*Betty Cooke, Ph.D., CFLE
Family Education Faculty
University of Minnesota*

Family Life Education Products and Publications

Family Life Education: Integrating Theory and Practice—Second Edition

Newly
Revised

Edited by David Bredehoft, Ph.D., CFLE and Michael Walcheski, Ph.D., CFLE, of Concordia University – St. Paul, MN.

Family Life Education: Integrating Theory and Practice is highly-regarded as a professional resource and also as a supplemental textbook. It contains

applied research and leading edge information on assessment and evaluation in family life education, professional program development, cultural competency and much more.

This second edition includes new articles on financial literacy, work-life balance, group facilitation, marriage education, and marketing of family life education programs. Each chapter is written by a leading professional in the field. 2009 ISBN 0-916174-69-7.

CF0908

\$24.95 NCFR Member

\$29.95 Non-member

Teaching Family Life Education. A Syllabus Collection

Do you teach Family Life Education or design FLE curricula? This publication is a collection of over 40 syllabi

covering all of NCFR's 10 content areas for the CFLE, plus syllabi for related family courses and electives. A rich resource, full of content ideas, class activities, suggested readings, grading criteria and more. Edited by Michael Walcheski, Ph.D., CFLE, Concordia University, and Nancy Gonzalez, M.Ed., CFLE. 2005.

ISBN 0-91674-68-9

CF0509

NCFR Members \$14.00

Non-Members \$16.00

Teaching Family Policy: A Handbook of Course Syllabi, Teaching Strategies and Resources—Second Edition

This collection includes over 30 family policy course syllabi, course exercises and assignments, annotated bibliography, internship and employment opportunities, and websites related to family policy. A special publication of the NCFR Family Policy Section. 2004

ISBN: 0-916174-67-0

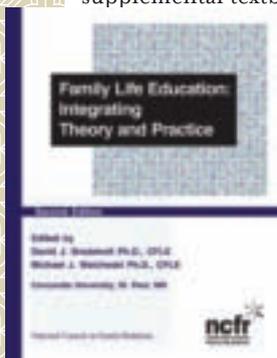
OP9402

NCFR Member \$14.00

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Pathways to Practice: The Family Life Education Internship/Practicum Handbook

Jan Wilson, Ph.D., CFLE and Angie O'Malley, Ph.D., CFLE, have edited this must-have resource for anyone involved in organizing and supervising internship or practicum experiences for family life education students. The book includes an introduction to family life education, internships and



Family Life Education Framework Poster and Powerpoint—Third Edition

This attractive, full-color, laminated 36" x 52" wall poster, based on the Certified Family Life Educator framework, describes nine major content and learning concepts for family life education programs over four life stages: childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and later adulthood. Consideration of Family Life Education Methodology has been added as an additional component to this new edition. The concepts of value, diverse cultures, communities, and individuals, and justice, are incorporated throughout the framework. Ideal for curriculum design, program development, continuing education, classroom instruction, and program assessment. Includes PowerPoint presentation which includes a separate slide for each of the 36 cells that make up the Framework. 2011.

ISBN 978-0-916174-72-9

CF1101

NCFR Member \$19.95

Non-member \$24.95



practicums, as well as discussion of professional issues in the workplace, how to enhance one's professional status, potential challenges and ethical conduct. Special sections for faculty and site supervisors are included. The Appendix includes a collection of various forms, checklists, agreements/contracts, student assignments, evaluation tools and more. 139 pages.

2004

ISBN 0-916174-65-4

CF0402

NCFR Member \$14.95

Non-member \$17.95

Careers in Family Science

What can you do with a degree in Family Science?

This booklet provides information on Family Science as a discipline and profession. It includes information helpful when considering undergraduate and graduate degree programs as well as career options for each degree level. An article on the job search process provides tips for resume preparation and the interview process. Helpful profiles of NCFR members and CFLEs working in the field provide real-life examples of family career options. 2009

OP0904

ISBN 978-0-916174-71-2

Individual copies: Free - Must pay shipping and handling

Bulk orders: First 50 copies, \$1.00 each; additional copies over 50, \$.85 each

Tools for Ethical Thinking and Practice for Family Life Educators—Second Edition

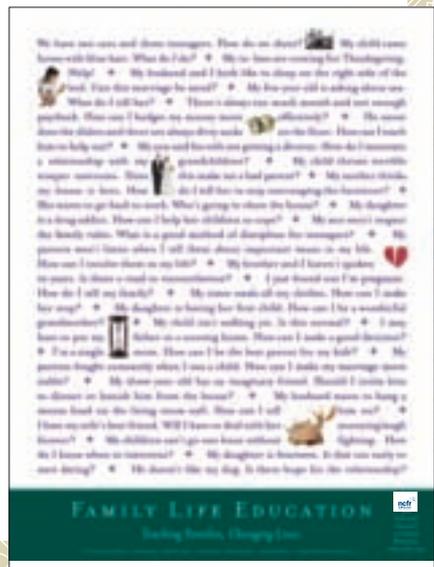
Newly Revised

This popular booklet is useful for teaching about professional ethics in the classroom as well as a resource for practicing family professionals. Content new to the 2nd Edition includes an article on Professional Ethics and Practice and the Family Life Education Content Areas: Content and Practice Guidelines which combines content from the University and College Curriculum Guidelines, the FLE Framework and the CFLE Exam Content Outline into one document. The updated ethical thinking and practice guidelines, developed by the Minnesota Council on Family Relations, include a helpful case study process. 36 pages. 2009. ISBN# 978-0-916174-70-5 CFO903 NCFR Member \$6.95 Non-Member \$8.95



Teaching Families, Changing Lives Poster

This poster is the result of the NCFR poster design contest. The winning entry is the collaborative effort of six Samford University students. The poster does a great job of depicting the range of issues addressed in family life education through the description of both poignant and humorous situations. Help spread the word about family life education. Makes a great graduation gift! CFO411 NCFR Member \$5.00 Non-member \$8.00



FREE CFLE Power Point Presentations available on NCFR website

http://www.ncfr.org/cert/CFLE_prod.asp#1

The following PowerPoint presentations are available to view or download on the NCFR website.

How to Become a Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE). An Overview of the CFLE Application Process

This PowerPoint presentation defines family life education, considers the benefits of becoming a Certified Family Life Educator, and provides an explanation of the different ways in which to become a CFLE: both the Abbreviated Application process and the CFLE Exam.

Student Step-by-Step Guide to the Abbreviated Application Process

A great teaching tool for professionals teaching family classes. This PowerPoint presentation will introduce the Abbreviated Application process to students attending programs approved through the NCFR Academic Program Review. This practical tool will:

1. Introduce the concept of Family Life Education
2. Describe the 10 content areas that make up the criteria for the Certified Family Life Educator designation
3. Address some of the most frequently asked questions regarding the Abbreviated Application Process.

CFLE Academic Program Review Benefits Presentation

Considering having your academic family program approved by NCFR? This PowerPoint presentation highlights the benefits of program approval through the NCFR Academic Program Review process. Use it as a tool to introduce the benefits and APR application process to faculty and staff.

Family Life Education PowerPoint—What is Family Life Education?

What is family life education and where does it fit within our society? This presentation considers operational principles that help to clarify how family life education differs from counseling, therapy and social work. The ten family life content areas are reviewed as are settings in which family life education takes place. A brief summary of the benefits of hiring a Certified Family Life Educator is included.



About NCFR

The National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) is a non-profit, non-partisan, educational organization for multidisciplinary family professionals. Its mission is to provide a forum for family researchers, educators, and practitioners to share in the development and dissemination of knowledge about families and family relationships; to establish professional standards for the field, and to promote family well-being.

NCFR is publisher of *The Journal of Marriage and Family*, *Family Relations: Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Family Studies*, *The Journal of Family Theory & Review*, and the *NCFR Report*.



Order form

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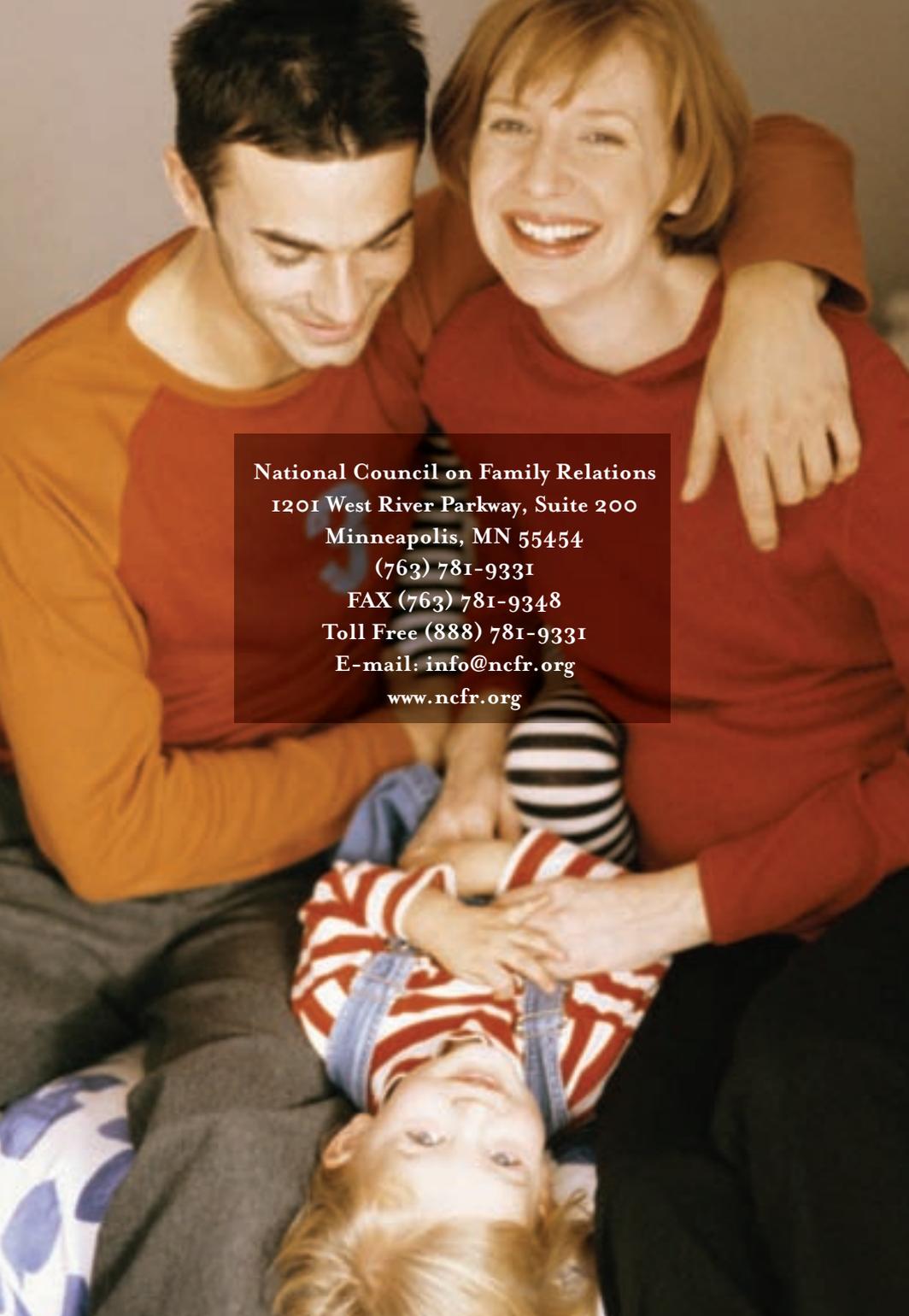
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