



CAST

**Child Advocacy Studies:
Curricula & Conference**

GUNDERSEN
NATIONAL CHILD
PROTECTION TRAINING CENTER



Annual CAST Conference

Implementing CAST in Your University

Gundersen National Child Protection Training Center (Gundersen NCPTC) hosts a three-day conference for selected professors from across the United States to explore the Child Advocacy Studies curriculum offered at various sites across the country. Two professors, from up to twenty different universities/colleges, are selected to attend each year. The conference introduces all the unique features of the program and explains how it can include several departments within their schools. The conference also offers the latest developments in the child protection field and allows professors to share and

exchange ideas for implementing curricula at their institutions. Syllabi and reading materials are shared, along with assignment recommendations and course descriptions. To assist professors and institutions who are financially unable to pay for the conference, a limited number of scholarships are available.

Technical Assistance

Gundersen NCPTC manages an online discussion forum, offers curricula development support and responds to requests for assistance from educators who have attended a Child Advocacy Studies (CAST) Conference. These efforts have assisted in implementing CAST programs in numerous college institutions across the nation.

Desiring to maintain the best practice model, informed by research and practical experience, Gundersen NCPTC has engaged its current educational partners in the development of a program approval process for the CAST curricula. The goal of the program approval is to establish a baseline of knowledge in the core competencies for students completing a course of study in the CAST curricula. At its most basic level, CAST students will be substantially better prepared for a front-line career than at any time in the past. The CAST Approval Process will begin accepting applications from current CAST colleges and universities in the fall of 2014.

Apply today or encourage other interested parties and educational institutions to apply!

Visit www.gundersenhealth.org/NCPTC and click on the Child Advocacy Studies or Training Conferences tab for more information and to download the application to attend the next CAST conference.

For additional information, contact Dr. Betsy Goulet at bgoul2@uis.edu.

Our Progress

CAST has been implemented at the undergraduate level in 28 colleges or universities in 21 states. CAST is offered at the graduate level in four law schools, two seminaries, one medical school, one residency program and three international programs. Dozens of additional undergraduate and graduate institutions are working on the reform.



About the Model CAST Curriculum

Winona State University's (WSU) model Child Advocacy Studies (CAST) curriculum, (BA minor and certificate program), is shared at the CAST Conference. After attending the conference, participants are able to bring the curriculum materials and information to their institution, and propose the implementation of this highly impactful program. Below is a list of the courses.

Required Courses

- CAST 301** Perspectives on Child Maltreatment and Child Advocacy
- CAST 302** Global Child Advocacy Issues
- CAST 401** Professional and Systemic Responses to Child Maltreatment
- CAST 402** Responding to the Survivor of Child Abuse and Survivor Responses
- CAST 407** CAST Capstone Experience

Electives

- CAST 403** Child Exploitation, Pornography and the Internet
- CAST 404** Sociology of Child Poverty
- CAST 405** Gender, Violence, and Society
- CAST 406** Child Advocacy Research Studies

Course information from other schools that have already implemented their own CAST curriculum is also shared with attendees.

The CAST curriculum developed at WSU focuses on interdisciplinary, ethical, realistic, and culturally sensitive content that provides professionals working with children a foundation for responding to child maltreatment. Students learn about the various disciplinary responses to child maltreatment and will develop a multidisciplinary understanding of the most efficient responses. Students completing the courses in this program will be better equipped to accomplish the work of related agencies (social work, criminal justice, nursing, etc.) as they advocate on behalf of child victims and survivors of child maltreatment.



Gundersen National Child Protection Training Center (Gundersen NCPTC) works to end all forms of child abuse, neglect and exploitation through training, education, advocacy, prevention and awareness, providing care and treatment for children, families and adult survivors. Gundersen NCPTC focuses on educational curricula development and training for child protection professionals across the country. Gundersen NCPTC is devoted to preventing child abuse before it even begins. For more information on Gundersen NCPTC, please visit: www.gundersenhealth.org/NCPTC

Gundersen NCPTC disseminates an effective model curricula for undergraduate and graduate college students entering child protection fields. With the benefit of a child advocacy curricula, future child protection professionals receive practical hands-on training before they are on the job. Professionals of tomorrow will know how to handle cases of child abuse appropriately and recognize the signs and symptoms of abused children more efficiently.