

NorthWest Arkansas Community College
Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Education and
Wellness, Legal and Protective Services

CMJS 2463 (Child Abuse & Neglect)

Catalog Description:

This course is an introductory course in child advocacy covering the history, comparative perspectives, legal framework, responses to child maltreatment and child advocacy. The course is designed for law enforcement, prosecution and child advocacy professionals, and for students majoring in criminal justice, education, social work, sociology, early childhood development, psychology, nursing, paralegal, or other areas where knowledge of child maltreatment and advocating for children might be necessary.

Credit Hours/Contact Hours/Load Hours:

3/3/3

Course Objectives:

- To learn about and understand how to apply a model of critical thinking/analysis to child maltreatment issues and research.
- To understand historical trends in child maltreatment and child advocacy.
- To understand the philosophical underpinnings of responses to children and child maltreatment.
- To understand their own values and perceptions regarding child advocacy and child maltreatment and the impact those could have on the present or future work in this area.
- To become knowledgeable about both civil and criminal laws involved in child maltreatment in Arkansas and other states, the outcomes of those laws, and their effectiveness.
- To become aware of the various issues associated with child maltreatment and understand the opposing positions surrounding those issues.
- To become aware of the different perspectives of a prosecuting attorney and the defense attorney.
- To understand the roles of the various professions working in the field and their different world views.
- To become aware of cultural differences and how they impact responses to child maltreatment.
- To understand how to identify and respond to child maltreatment
- To understand and begin to apply the skills necessary to work in the field.
- To become aware of what can be done to both prevent child maltreatment and intervene effectively when it does occur.