



April 2021

Dear Prospective Student Intern,

Thank you for expressing an interest in the Child Life Student Internship Program at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Enclosed you will find further information regarding our program as well as the application requirements.

Student interns have the opportunity to work closely with our child life specialists in both inpatient and outpatient areas. The student internship program provides hands on learning in a variety of settings and offers students the opportunity to work with our patients in both 1:1 situations and in group settings. Students work under the direct supervision of a child life specialist and work toward gaining independence in their work with patients and families. Child life is an integral component of the services provided by Connecticut Children's Medical Center and our child life specialists work closely with the other members of the healthcare team.

Students who are considering applying for the Child Life Internship Program at Connecticut Children's must have a working knowledge of the field of child life and have a solid background in child development. Students must be affiliated with a college or university throughout the duration of their internship. To fulfill this requirement, students must be able to identify an academic supervisor and a representative of the school to sign an affiliation agreement with Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

Applications must be submitted according to the Association of Child Life Professionals' timeline and will be reviewed after the deadline for submission date. Applicants will be considered for a personal interview through a review of their application materials. Should a personal interview be granted, students will be notified by telephone. All other candidates will receive a letter regarding the status of their application.

Thank you again for your interest in applying to our program and we look forward to receiving your application. Please email childlifeinternship@connecticutchildrens.org if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Christine Tatem

Christine Tatem, MEd, CCLS

Assistant Manager, Child Life Services

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Child Life Student Internship Program

About the Program

The Student Internship Program is designed for undergraduate and graduate students who are interested in furthering their skills in working to fulfill the specialized needs of children and families dealing with illness and stress. The students work closely with Certified Child Life Specialists in a variety of patient settings.

The internship is a 16 week program requiring 40 hours of experience per week for a total of 600 hours. This allows for some flexibility in scheduling and unanticipated time off. Students may work varying schedules throughout the semester in accordance with their supervisor's schedule and may be required to work evenings and/or weekends.

Should a student successfully and satisfactorily complete the Student Internship Program they will be issued a Verification Form for Child Life Certification at the conclusion of the program.

Prerequisites for Internship

Students must:

- Demonstrate a working knowledge of the field of child life and the role that a child life specialist plays on the healthcare team
- Possess a solid background in child development
- Have hands on experience working with children of various ages, particularly children in stressful situations
- Have a minimum of 100 hours of practicum or fieldwork experience within a hospital or healthcare setting
- Maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher in major
- Exhibit the ability to self-critique as well as to accept constructive criticism
- Be dependable and able to work independently
- Possess above average communication skills both orally and in writing

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During the internship students will:

- Learn about the effects of hospitalization on children and families
- Gain exposure to children with many diagnoses
- Work with a variety of ages and developmental levels
- Have exposure to a range of medical procedures
- Work as part of a multi-disciplinary team
- Observe and implement
 - pre-procedural preparation and pre-operative teaching
 - procedural support
 - therapeutic play, medical play and therapeutic activities in both 1:1 and group settings
- Learn about the elements of family centered care and utilize these in their work with patients
- Learn about the role the child life specialist in relation to special events and activities and participate in the facilitation of these
- Learn about the utilization of volunteers and begin to work closely in the supervision of them

Some of the major responsibilities of the student throughout the internship are:

- Weekly evaluations
- Diagnostic teaching and procedural support observations
- Developmental assessments
- Article reviews
- Special internship project approved by supervisor

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Application Procedures

A completed application includes the following:

- ❑ Complete Association of Child Life Professionals Common Child Life Internship Application (available at www.childlife.org)
 - ❑ An ACLP letter from an endorsed academic program may be substituted for eligibility assessment. Either must be included.
- ❑ Unofficial academic transcripts from all colleges/universities attended
 - ❑ An **official** copy of the transcript will be required upon acceptance to the program
- ❑ Two letters of recommendation using the recommendation form in the common application emailed directly to childlifeinternship@connecticutchildrens.org with your name in the subject line.
 - ❑ Recommendations must come directly from the individual completing the reference, otherwise they will not be accepted.

****Please ensure all steps are completed properly. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted. ****

*****Connecticut Children's is only able to accept affiliated students into our internship program. *****

Please email all application materials with your name in the subject line to:

childlifeinternship@connecticutchildrens.org

Applications received through the mail will not be reviewed.

Application and offer deadlines correspond with the recommendations of the Association of Child Life Professionals

Thank you for your interest in applying to Connecticut Children's.

You will be hearing from us upon review of your application packet.