

# Sacred Heart Children's Hospital-Child Life Internship

The Child Life Internship at Sacred Heart Children's Hospital (SHCH) is open to academic students seeking certification as a Certified Child Life Specialist. Students are offered extensive and varied opportunities to meet the standards set forth by the Certifying Committee of the Association of Child Life Professionals. All students on SHCH campus must be college or university affiliated with an existing educational agreement. The Child Life department accepts one student per session.

## ***Student learning activities during the internship will include:***

- Translating developmental theories into practice
- Opportunities to observe and then facilitate education sessions, medical play, procedural distraction and accompaniment and support as well as debrief sessions with pediatric patients
- Planning, facilitating and then evaluating therapeutic interventions
- Playroom facilitation
- Volunteer supervision
- Exposure to concepts of death and dying, and grief and loss
- Participation in a mock interviews
- Weekly meetings with Clinical Rotation Supervisor
- Weekly journals
- Site visits to local agencies providing services to pediatric populations
- Learning Modules, reading and written assignments, which will be done during regular hours and as homework

## ***Student learning activities during the internship may include:***

- Assisting with special visiting groups and/or parties
- Providing special holiday activities
- Assisting patients or siblings to return to classroom or school
- Providing grief support to patients and families
- Facilitate memory making and/or legacy building activities

# Sacred Heart Children's Hospital-Child Life Internship

## **Schedule:**

The Child Life Intern will complete a minimum of 640 hours over 16 weeks. The Intern will complete two six week and a four week rotation. Interns will be given opportunities to observe Child Life interactions in other departments as deemed appropriate by the Clinical Internship Coordinator. Internship Supervisors will have a maximum of one intern at one time.

## **Goal of Child Life Internship:**

The goal of the Child Life Internship at Sacred Heart Children's Hospital is for the Intern to be able to demonstrate knowledge and skills at a "job entry" level as defined by the Association of Child Life Professionals in the "Evaluation Tool for Child Life Interns", for example:

- *The Intern is able to perform the skill or behavior effectively and independently. The intern applies the skill in a manner expected of a child life intern ready to begin his/her first job as a child life specialist.*
  - *Assistance/ Guidance: The intern is able to perform this skill or behavior effectively and independently—not requiring the assistance of the clinical supervisor. The intern applies the skill in a manner expected of a child life intern ready to begin an entry level position as a child life specialist.*
  - *% of Caseload: Intern can assume most or all of the entire caseload of a child life specialist (75-100%). Clinical supervisor very rarely provides guidance regarding prioritization.*
  - *Amount of Follow-up Required: Intern consistently interacts appropriately with patients/families/staff. Clinical supervisor does not find it necessary to follow-up with patients/families/staff after intern's interactions.*
  - *Initiative: Intern takes initiative and always begins tasks independently.*
  - *Ease of Performing Task: Intern's ease around patients and families is consistent and apparent in nearly all interactions.*

*Evaluation of these skills and knowledge will come through the Clinical Internship Coordinator and Clinical Rotation Supervisor as well as the Self-Reflective and awareness of the Intern.*

# Sacred Heart Children's Hospital-Child Life Internship

## ***Requirements to be considered for internship***

- 100 hours of experience with well infants, children, youth and/or families
- 100 hours of experience with infants, children, youth and/or families in health care settings
- 100 hours of experience with infants, children, youth and/or families in stressful situations
- Successful completion of child life practicum program supervised by a CCLS
- Successful completion of the child life coursework inclusive of the 6 applied areas of study, as required by the ACLP
- Minimum GPA 3.0 in major
- Completion of the academic course work portion of the ACLP eligibility assessment
  - Including, child life theory course taught by a CCLS

## ***Requirements prior to start of child life internship:***

- Interview with members from the Child Life Department
- Completion of university learning contract
- Background check
- Completion of hospital orientation
- Completion of a written list of goals for internship

*It is important to note that Child Life Interns must adhere strictly to hospital HIPAA policy throughout their affiliation with SHCH. Failure to do so will result in immediate termination with our department and with SHCH.*

# Sacred Heart Children's Hospital-Child Life Internship

## ***Make-Up Shifts:***

In the event of an illness, family emergency or other absence the intern must make up that time prior to completion of internship. After three absences, termination of the internship may be discussed with the SHMC Clinical Internship Coordinator and/or the University Supervisor and/or Instructor.

## ***Evaluations***

Interns will meet weekly with their Clinical Rotation Supervisor and Clinical Internship Coordinator to:

- Review weekly journal and assignments
- Debrief the weeks' interactions
- Assess the relevance of learned and observed data

In addition to weekly progress meetings, the intern, Clinical Internship Coordinator, and Clinical Rotation Supervisor(s) will meet to evaluate internship progress at the end of each rotation.

These meetings will cover:

- Progress of internship
- Program evaluation
- Progress toward interns' goals

# Sacred Heart Children's Hospital-Child Life Internship

## ***Application Process***

Application for the Child Life Internship at Sacred Heart Children's Hospital requires the Common Child Life Internship Application available on the Association of Child Life Professionals web page. Sacred Heart follows the Association of Child Life Professionals recommended deadlines as listed below:

Internship Session	Application Deadline	Initial Offer Dates	Acceptance Dates
Fall	March 15	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of May	Following Wednesday
Spring	September 5	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of October	Following Wednesday

In addition to the completed 'Common Child Life Internship Application' the following are also required:

- Cover Letter/ Letter of Interest
- Two letters of reference/ ACLP recommendation forms (either option is accepted)
- Official documentation of volunteer hours
- Current unofficial transcript(s)

## ***Contact Information:***

For more information, please contact:

[shmcchildLF@providence.org](mailto:shmcchildLF@providence.org)

To apply for an internship, please mail application to:

**Internship Coordinator**

**Child Life Department**

[shmcchildLF@providence.org](mailto:shmcchildLF@providence.org)

Sacred Heart Children's Hospital

Attn.: Child Life Department

101 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue Suite E4008

Spokane, WA 99204