

Child Life Practicum Program

The Child Life Practicum Program is open to college students enrolled in child development courses. This is intended to be a program that offers child development students the opportunity to observe a certified child life specialist and interact with children in our playroom(s) and at the bedside. Students are offered several learning opportunities to better understand the impact of hospitalization on child development. Students must complete 160 hours. Schedule of days and hours per day may vary.

Student learning activities during the practicum will include:

- Participation in weekly child development discussions with the supervisor.
- Weekly journaling assignments
- Child life module assignments
- Presenting one case study
- Interviewing member(s) of the multidisciplinary team
- Programming-focused project.
 - For example, researching a relevant subject area and presenting a power point presentation or creating a project to be used by our patients.

Student learning activities during the practicum may include:

- Observation of a child life specialist providing play, preparation, education, self-expression activities, and/or supportive activities
- Help with planning and implementing developmentally-appropriate activities for the playroom
- Provide developmentally appropriate activities to waiting patients and siblings
- Bedside interventions (as appropriate)
- Rounding on patients (as appropriate)
- Assist in organization of daily play sessions for long term patient(s)
- Assist with monthly parties for the Children's Hospital
- Preparatory work for patient activities
- Stocking teaching supplies and prizes

Requirements to be considered for Practicum Program:

- Enrollment in a child development degree program or concentration
- Completion of full application process

Encouraged prior to application for Practicum Program:

- Volunteer experience supervised by a Certified Child Life Specialist
- Completion of a Child Life Theory class taught by a Certified Child Life Specialist

Requirements prior to start of Practicum Program:

- Interview with members from the Child Life Department resulting in offer of practicum placement
- Completion of paperwork/tasks from education services at SHMC
- Completion of student modules
- Completion of a written list of goals for practicum
- Completion of university learning contract

It is important to note that practicum students must adhere strictly to hospital HIPPA policy.

Make-Up Shifts

If you are sick, have a family emergency or other scheduling conflict and need to miss one of your scheduled shifts, you must make up that time prior to completion of practicum. After three absences, termination of your practicum may be discussed with your SHMC primary supervisor and your university supervisor and/or instructor.

Evaluations

Practicum student and supervisor will meet to evaluate progress with a midterm and a final evaluation.

These meetings will cover:

- Progress of practicum
- Program evaluation
- Goal setting

Application Process

Sacred Heart Children's Hospital follows the Association of Child Life Professionals recommended deadlines as listed below. Applications must be received by the following dates to be considered for the practicum program:

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

In addition to a completed application form the following are also required:

- Resume/ Curriculum Vitae
- A letter of interest
- At least one letter of reference
- Current unofficial transcript

Contact Information

To apply for a practicum, or for more information, please contact:

Practicum Coordinator
shmcchildLF@providence.org
Sacred Heart Children's Hospital
ATTN: Child Life Department
101 W. 8th Avenue
STE E4008
Spokane, WA 99204

Child Life Practicum Standards from the Association of Child Life Professionals

The Child Life Practicum is designed as an introductory experience for individuals interested in pursuing a career in child life. Through experiential learning and observation of Certified Child Life Specialists, child life practicum students begin to increase their knowledge of basic child life skills related to play, developmental assessment, and integration of child life theory into interventions with infants, children, youth and families. Child life practicum students will increase their comfort level by interacting with infants, children, youth, and families in stressful situations, health care settings and/or in programs designed for special needs populations. Through these experiences, child life practicum students will enhance their knowledge of the child life profession and investigate the process of applying child life and developmental theory to practice.

Child Life Practicum Recommended Standards

While the Association of Child Life Professionals does not *require* specific practices or protocols for child life practicums at this time, and child life practicums are not currently accepted to establish eligibility for the Child Life Professional Certification Examination, ACLP encourages child life practicum programs to follow these recommendations set forth in 2013 by the ACLP Practicum Task Force:

Standard #1: The child life practicum is largely an observational experience with child life practicum students beginning to engage in independent play and developmentally supportive interventions with infants, children, youth, and families as deemed appropriate by the supervising CCLS.

Standard #2: The child life practicum student will be supervised by a Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS) who has achieved a minimum of 2,000 hours of paid work experience as a child life specialist. The supervising CCLS must be currently practicing in the field of child life; however, the setting of the child life practicum could vary.

Standard #3: The child life practicum encompasses a minimum of 100 supervised hours. The child life practicum experience may include a combination of practicum hours being completed in no more than two different settings given each setting builds upon and strengthens a child life practicum student's continual development and growth as a child life specialist.

Standard #4: Child life practicum hours should be completed in an appropriate setting that provides the child life practicum student with the opportunity to observe and learn from psychosocial interventions that assist infants, children, youth and families experiencing health related or stressful situations. Approved settings can include:

- Hospitals / Medical Centers
- Therapeutic, medical or health related camp settings
- Hospice, grief, or support centers
- Rehabilitation settings

Standard #5: The child life practicum includes observation opportunities for students to explore the following theory and interventions related to child life practice:

- Child life assessments
- Developmental theory integration
- Therapeutic play interventions
- Rapport building

Standard #6: The child life practicum learning experiences include activities and assignments which allow the child life practicum student to begin to apply and integrate knowledge and theory application for future clinical practice and help to initiate the development of a personal philosophy of child life practice. These learning assignments should include:

- Journaling
- Educational In-services and Discussions
- Specific and Structured Readings



Child Life Practicum Application

Personal Information:

Name	Street Address	City/State/Zip
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Day Phone ()	Alternate Phone ()	E-mail Address
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|---|-----------------------|---|
| Session Applying for: <input type="checkbox"/> Spring <input type="checkbox"/> Fall | Feb- May
Sept- Dec | Deadlines:
September 5 th (Spring Session)
March 15 th (Fall Session) |
|---|-----------------------|---|

Please note that Sacred Heart Children's Hospital follows the ACLP's recommended deadlines for application offer and acceptance.

Academic Information:

Undergraduate Program (Required)

Name of Institution:	Degree:
Advisor Name:	Advisor Phone Number:
Graduation or Anticipated Graduation Date:	GPA:

Graduate Program (If Applicable)

Name of Institution:	Degree:
Advisor Name:	Advisor Phone Number:
Graduation or Anticipated Graduation Date:	GPA:

Experience Information:

Volunteer or Fieldwork	
Position Title:	Number of Hours Completed:
Organization:	Address:
Supervisor Name:	Supervisor Phone Number:

Please describe your volunteer role and responsibilities:

Volunteer or Fieldwork	
Position Title:	Number of Hours Completed:
Organization:	Address:
Supervisor Name:	Supervisor Phone Number:

Please describe your volunteer role and responsibilities:

Volunteer or Fieldwork	
Position Title:	Number of Hours Completed:
Organization:	Address:
Supervisor Name:	Supervisor Phone Number:

Please describe your volunteer role and responsibilities:

Please answer the following questions:

1. Explain your understanding of the role of a Child Life Specialist in the healthcare setting.

2. Explain how you became interested in the role of child life.

3. What qualities do you possess that make you the right fit for child life?

4. What have you done to prepare yourself for this practicum?

5. What do you expect to gain from the practicum experience? Please state 2-3 goals.

6. What other obligations will you have during your practicum (work, school, etc)?