



The Child Life Internship Program at Sacred Heart Children's Hospital (SHCH) is accredited by the Association of Child Life Professionals (ACLP), and open to college or university-affiliated 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 ACLP. Internships at SHCH are offered to one student per academic session, held in Fall and Spring.

Student learning opportunities will include:

- translating developmental theories into practice.
- observation and facilitation of education sessions, medical play, procedural distraction, accompaniment and support, patient debrief sessions, and more.
- planning, facilitating, and evaluating therapeutic interventions.
- playroom facilitation.
- volunteer supervision.
- exposure to the concepts of death and dying, and grief and loss.
- participation in mock interviews.
- weekly meetings with Clinical Rotation Supervisor.
- weekly journals.
- site visits to local agencies providing services to pediatric populations.
- learning modules and academic assignments.

Schedule:

The Child Life Intern will complete a minimum of 640 clinical hours over the course of 16 weeks, divided into three rotations. Each student's daily schedule will vary based on rotation placement. Rotation schedules may include evening and weekend hours.

Goal of the Child Life Internship:

Upon successful completion of the Child Life Internship at Sacred Heart Children's Hospital, interns will demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to be considered "Job Entry" level, as defined by the ACLP in the "Evaluation Tool for Child Life Interns":

- ***Job Entry***

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.*

Contact:

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