

UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
UPMC Children's Hospital in Harrisburg
Child Life Department
Practicum Application

Thank you for your interest in the **Child Life Practicum** offered by the Child Life Department of the UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and UPMC Children's Hospital in Harrisburg. This experience for students who are looking for an opportunity to learn more about the Child Life field and role of a Child Life Specialist within a hospital setting. The program allows the student to become familiar with children's reactions to the hospital environment, develop their observation and interaction skills with patients, families and staff, and practice activity planning based on developmental knowledge. We recognize and follow the ACLP learning modules specific to pre-internship learning.

The schedule and structure of the practicum is subject to change based on the availability of supervisors and the student's needs. Please ask during the interview process for more information about the semester schedule. Typically, the commitment is two days a week (16 hours) for approximately 10 weeks. The two days are selected by the student and are typically Monday-Friday. The practicum experience will be for one semester only (Fall, Spring or Summer). Summer commitments and occasionally semester dependent, the practicum will be held over a month, Monday-Friday (40 hours) with 2 rotations each being 2 weeks long.

For legal purposes, potential practicum candidates **MUST** be enrolled at a college or university *throughout the duration of the desired practicum session*. Upon acceptance to the practicum program and prior to the student's first day, several requirements will need to be met including (but not limited to): a comprehensive health screening, verification of professional liability insurance as stated in a contractual agreement between CHP and the University, as well as proof of complying with the Pennsylvania Acts 31, 33, 34, and 73 requirements.

Entrance Requirements

Applicants must

- be **enrolled** in a college or university throughout the duration of the program.
- have taken a **minimum of 5 courses** in child life or related topics (e.g., child, family, or human development, family dynamics, psychology, counseling, sociology, expressive therapies).
- be at a **minimum junior level** standing in their baccalaureate program before starting the program.
- complete a minimum of 50 hours working or volunteering with typically developing children and provide proof of hours (summer camp, church groups, nanny, etc)
- complete a minimum of 30 hours working or volunteering with children in a hospitalized setting, medically fragile daycare or summer camp and provide proof of hours.

Application Deadline

FALL: March 15

SPRING: September 5

SUMMER: January 5

Offer dates follow the ACLP guidelines for Internship

About the Program

Goals and Objectives

To become more familiar with the child life field.

To understand the value of play within a hospitalized setting.

To integrate theory into practice.

To recognize the developmental, psychosocial and medical needs of children and families and translate those needs into goals of coping and adjustment.

To develop communication skills in working with patients, families, and the medical team

Assignments

Assignments include but are not limited to: daily journal entries, psychosocial assessments, therapeutic activity plans, chart notes, and a case study.

Housing, Parking & Meals

Students are responsible for making their own arrangements for housing and meals. For your convenience, a refrigerator and microwave may be available to you. The hospital complex and the surrounding area offer many possibilities for meals. Parking can be provided at zero cost to the student, if needed.

Application Requirements

If you are interested in applying for a practicum placement with our program, please submit the following information:

- a completed application
- 1-2 page personal response
 - What inspired your interest in the field of child life?
 - Please share an experience you've had working with a child that made an impact on you.
- an unofficial or official school transcript
- a current resume including approximate hours spent in each position (paid or unpaid)

Please send the COMPLETED application to: for Pittsburgh location: childlifepracticum@chp.edu or for Harrisburg location: childlifeharrisburg@upmc.edu.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Emergency Contact Name and Phone #: _____

College/University: _____

Degree Sought or Acquired: _____

Major: _____

Date of Expected Graduation: _____

Requested Practicum Session: Fall _____ Spring _____ Summer _____

What days and times are you available to fulfill your practicum hours?

What other commitments will you have during your practicum?

Enclosed is a complete practicum application packet:

- ___ Application
- ___ Typed Response
- ___ College or university official or unofficial transcript(s)
- ___ Current Resume listing all experience with children and approximate hours

I understand it is the sole responsibility of the applicant to confirm receipt of the application packet. I understand if my application packet is incomplete, I *will not* be considered for the practicum program.

Signature _____ Date _____