

UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh

Child Life Department
Practicum Student Application

Dear Student,

Thank you for your interest in the Child Life Practicum Program offered by the Child Life Department of the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC. A practicum is a *pre-internship* 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 practicum 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.

The practicum schedule and structure 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. The practicum experience will be for one semester only (Fall, Spring or Summer).

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 33, 34, and 73 requirements.

Entrance Requirements:

Applicants must:

- be enrolled in a college or university throughout the duration of the practicum 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 practicum 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.

Goals and Objectives:

1. To become more familiar with the child life field.
2. To understand the value of play within a hospitalized setting.
3. To integrate theory into practice.
4. To recognize the developmental, psychosocial and medical needs of children and families and translate those needs into goals of coping and adjustment.
5. To develop communication skills in working with patients, families, and the medical team

Application Deadline:

FALL: May 5

SPRING: September 5

SUMMER: January 5

Application Submission:

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

1. Completed application
2. One page typed personal statement
3. Two letters of reference
4. College or university transcript(s) (unofficial)
5. Current resume

Please email the COMPLETED application to childlifepacticum@chp.edu

*All application documents, including letters of reference, should be emailed. It is preferred that letters of reference be sent together with the completed application, however, will be accepted if sent directly from the writer.

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact childlifepacticum@chp.edu

Thank you for your interest in our program!

Practicum Coordinators:

Jessica Smith, MS, CCLS Senior Child Life Specialist

Rachael Razorsek, MS, CCLS Intermediate Child Life Specialist

Dani Burgess, MS, CCLS Intermediate Child Life Specialist

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Practicum Application

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 _____

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

2. What other commitments will you have during your practicum?

3. Please attach a one-page typed personal statement addressing why you want to be a practicum student and reasons why you should be chosen.

Enclosed is a complete practicum application packet:

- ___ Application
- ___ Personal Statement
- ___ College or university transcript(s) (unofficial)
- ___ Two Letters of Recommendation
- ___ Current Resume

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 _____