

Dear Prospective Student,

Thank you for your interest in our Child Life Practicum Program at Oklahoma Children's Hospital at OU Health. We offer a comprehensive practicum program with observational clinical experience. Oklahoma Children's Hospital is a 225-bed pediatric facility with child life currently covering inpatient and outpatient areas.

Our practicum is intended to introduce students to the profession of child life as well as provide exposure to a variety of experiences by hospitalized patients. Students will observe a Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS) working with hospitalized children and families. During our practicum program, our students will be given the opportunity to engage in bedside play, medical art activities, provide assessments of development, and develop coping plans. Practicum students are scheduled 16-24 hours per week with a minimum of 150 total hours over the semester. Students will also have assignments and readings.

This packet is designed to help you understand the requirements of our practicum and the application process. It also provides information regarding the practicum program at Oklahoma Children's Hospital. We believe as a student it is important to find a program that fits your lifestyle and learning style. Our goal as a practicum committee is to meet the needs of our students and also provide a well-rounded experience. We want all of our students to finish feeling competent and prepared to apply for internship.

The Child Life Department offers practicum opportunities for spring, summer, and fall semesters. The deadlines recommended by the Association of Child Life Professionals are utilized in the application process. They are as follows:

For practicum starting:	Application deadline:	Interviews during:	Applicants notified by:
January (Spring)	September 19 th	September/ October	4 th Tuesday in October
May (Summer)	January 19 th	January/February	4 th Tuesday in February
September (Fall)	March 29 th	April/May	3 rd Tuesday in May

The application must be postmarked by the date listed above. If a deadline falls on a weekend and/or Holiday, the due date will be moved forward to the next business day.

Please review the information regarding requirements to be eligible to apply for the practicum program and requirements for submission of application.

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding the practicum program. We are excited about your interest in our program. We can ensure you will have a great practicum experience at Oklahoma Children's Hospital at OU Health.

Sincerely,
Jocelyn Giertz, CCLS
Child Life Practicum Coordinator, Child Life Department
Oklahoma Children's Hospital at OU Health
Jocelyn.Giertz@OUHealth.com

Practicum Information

Child Life Mission Statement:

The Child Life Department advocates for and assists in meeting the psychosocial needs of patients and their families. By providing developmental support, preparation for medical events and maintaining a normalized environment, the department strives to minimize hospital-induced stress, maximize positive coping and promote a family centered culture throughout OU Health.

Child Life Practicum Goals/Objectives:

The role of a practicum student is very important. While observing how child life specialists provide recreational, educational, and emotional support to our patients and their families, a practicum student will be experiencing growth in the child life field. Practicum students have opportunities to observe child life specialists interact with patients in various areas of the hospital both in groups and in individualized settings. Practicum students should focus on becoming familiar with the hospital environment while assessing the developmental levels of children and identifying stressors that accompany the hospital experience for patients and families.

- 1) Develop a personal comfort level and confidence to function within the hospital environment
- 2) Increase knowledge regarding children's response to hospitalization, issues specific to children's developmental levels, and subsequent planning to meet developmental and/or therapeutic needs
- 3) Increase knowledge regarding the importance of therapeutic play opportunities for hospitalized children and the creation of therapeutic environments
- 4) The ability to build rapport with a child/teen and engage him/her in normalization activities
- 5) Increase knowledge regarding the role of and basic approaches of preparation and medical play
- 6) The ability to set goals and objectives that will enhance personal and professional learning within child life
- 7) General playroom management (i.e., safety, selections of toys, craft materials, activities)

Overview of Practicum:

- The Child Life Practicum at Oklahoma Children's Hospital is offered during the spring, summer, and fall semesters
- The practicum is a 150 hour (10-12 week) experience supervised by Certified Child Life Specialists
- The practicum consists of several assignments to be able to apply development and assessment skills. The student will complete weekly readings and journals. Throughout the practicum, the student will complete procedure assessments and developmental theory interactions. There will be a final presentation at the end of the practicum based on an evidence based theory article.
- The practicum schedule consists of one day in orientation, different clinical rotations, and one day to present final project and wrap up assignments.
- The student will receive a midterm and a final evaluation.
- Students will have the opportunity to plan and implement a Teddy Bear clinic.
- The student will have weekly meetings with the practicum coordinator to provide support and mentorship throughout the student experience.
- Practicum rotations will be decided based upon the availability of preceptors and to give the student a well-rounded overview of child life.
 - Available units include: general medicine, hematology/oncology inpatient and outpatient, outpatient surgery, surgical unit, pediatric intensive care, emergency

department, pediatric epilepsy monitoring and disordered eating unit, neonatal intensive care unit, radiology, dialysis and cardiac service line.

- The student will also complete a play rotation to aid in the student's ability to learn rapport building skills, apply developmental knowledge, and assess behavior.
- The student will have an orientation day to go over student guidelines, expectations, and assignments.
- The student will also be involved in attending a Special Event at Oklahoma Children's Hospital to gain more exposure to the role of child life during special events.
- The student will receive guidance and mentorship to apply for internship

Practicum Schedule:

- Most rotations fall during normal business hours. Depending on the rotation, there may be need for the student to start earlier or stay later. The student will be expected to follow the hours of their rotation supervisor.

Practicum Assignments:

Weekly Readings

Weekly Journals

Medical Art Activities

Evidence-Based Practice Presentation

Procedure Assessments

Effects of Hospitalization Worksheet

Developmental Worksheets

CCTV Programming

Special Event Planning

Internship Applications and Site Comparison Grid

Mock Interview and Resume Review

Interview Information:

- Applications that meet the requirements will be reviewed by the practicum committee
- The practicum committee will select the candidates to participate in the formal interview process
- Candidates who do not move forward in the interview process are welcome to reach out to receive feedback on their application

Please visit the Frequently Asked Questions page for additional information and questions.

For additional questions contact:

Jocelyn Giertz, CCLS

Practicum Coordinator

jocelyn.giertz@ouhealth.com

Requirements to apply:

1. Must have a minimum of 150 hours of volunteer or work experience with children. The experience can be a combined number of hours from various sites/settings.
 - Experience in a healthcare setting or established child life program is preferred
2. GPA of 3.0 or above for completed college level coursework
3. Applicants must show the following course with final passing grades or 'in progress' on the academic transcript (unofficial transcripts are encouraged)
 - 1. Child development course
 - 2. Play course
 - 3. Child life course

Application Requirements:

- Cover letter-stating interest in the practicum position
- Resume
- Completed practicum application
 - Entire practicum application *must be one-sided, typed, and without staples to be considered.*
 - Here is a direct link to the application: [Practicum Application](#)
- 2 Reference forms
 - The TACLP application reference form must be used
 - 1 must be from an academic advisor or instructor
 - 1 must be from an individual who has directly observed your work with children and families
 - Reference forms should also be returned to you in sealed envelopes with the individual's signature over the sealed portion of the envelope and placed with your application.
- Unofficial transcripts from each college or university attended

Reminders:

- Incomplete, non-typed or late application packets will not be reviewed
- Applications must be complete to be reviewed
- Applications must be postmarked by the deadline to be reviewed
- Submitting an application does not guarantee an interview or placement

Next steps:

1. You will receive an email once your application has been received
2. Applications will be reviewed
3. Our top candidates will be contacted for an interview

Please mail your completed application packet to:

Oklahoma Children's Hospital
Child Life Department—Mailbox #71
Attn: Jocelyn Giertz, Child Life Practicum Coordinator
1200 Everett Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73104