



Dear Prospective Intern,

Thank you for your interest in our Association of Child Life Professionals Accredited Child Life Internship Program. We offer a comprehensive internship program with hands-on clinical experience. Oklahoma Children's Hospital is a 225-bed pediatric facility with child life currently covering inpatient and outpatient areas.

This packet is designed to help you understand the requirements of our internship and application process. It also provides information regarding the internship program at Oklahoma Children's Hospital. We believe as a student it is very important to find a program that fits your lifestyle and learning style. Our goal as an internship committee is to tailor each experience to meet the needs of the student. We want all of our students to leave feeling competent and prepared to enter the child life field.

The Child Life Department offers internship opportunities for the 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:

Internship Session	Application Deadline	Initial Offer Date	Acceptance Date
Winter/Spring 2026	September 5 th	Tuesday, October 16 th	Wednesday, Oct. 17 th
Summer 2026	January 9 th	Tuesday, February 17 th	Wednesday, Feb. 18 th
Fall 2026	March 13 th	Tuesday, May 5 th	Wednesday, May 6 th
Winter/Spring 2027	September 4 th	Tuesday, October 6 th	Wednesday, Oct. 7 th

The application should 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.

When completing the internship application packet, the following are requirements to submit an application:

- (1) You must be affiliated with an academic institution
 - a. Acceptance into the internship program is contingent upon the school and student meeting all of the components listed in the contract. The contract must be agreed upon with the student's school and OU Health prior to student starting. More information will be given upon acceptance.
- (2) You must have successfully completed the academic coursework of the Association of Child Life Professionals' eligibility assessment by the internship start date. This includes a course taught by a Certified Child Life Specialist, inclusive of the six applied areas of study.

Please note that submitting a completed application does not guarantee a student an interview or internship placement. Interview candidates will be required to meet via Zoom for an interview.

Sincerely,
Child Life Program Coordinator & Student Committee, Child Life Department
Oklahoma Children's Hospital at OU Health
Childlifeinternship@ouhealth.com

Application Information

In order to apply to our student programs, students must be affiliated with an academic institution.

- **Completed ACLP Internship Readiness Common Application**
 - For questions regarding the application, please visit <https://www.childlife.org/certification/become-certified/clinical-internship/internship-readiness-common-application>
 - Uploaded ACLP eligibility assessment with application
 - Uploaded unofficial transcripts with application
 - Please include all documents in one PDF attachment if possible

Please submit your completed application packet via email:

ChildLifeInternship@ouhealth.com

In the subject line please include: "Internship applicant (semester applying) First Name Last Name"

Please note that these are the initial requirements to applying, throughout the application and interview process, there may be more information that is requested.

Internship 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 Medical Center.

Child Life Philosophy:

The child life intern will serve as an integral part of the child life department. Students are responsible for supervised involvement and independent planning and implementation of a developmentally and emotionally supportive psychosocial program for patients and families visiting Oklahoma Children's Hospital. Students will participate in orientation and guidance, direction, and evaluation by child life specialists in order to meet personal and program goals and objectives. Students will be evaluated using evaluation tools based upon the Association of Child Life Professionals competencies after each rotation and at the completion of the internship.

Child Life Intern Goals/Objectives:

- Apply theoretical knowledge of development
- Comfortably navigate the hospital environment and become familiar with the impact of hospitalization on patients and families
- Discuss the psychosocial effects of health care on children and families
- Identify the meaning of specific medical terminology, diagnoses, and procedures; understand their relationship to the child's and family's level of understanding
- Demonstrate entry-level professional skills in the use of play and therapeutic activities; both with in group and individual settings
- Effectively provide medical education/psychological preparation to patients and families for specific procedures, medical events, surgery, unit changes and/or discharges
- Utilize support techniques during procedures or other stressful medical events with patients and families
- Facilitate supportive relationships within the boundaries which define therapeutic relationships
- Demonstrate developmental and psychosocial assessment techniques to plan child life interventions
- Utilize the tenants of family centered care to assist families to cope with the stress of the health care experience
- Demonstrate professional attitudes, growth, maturity, and judgment
- Function as an active member of the interdisciplinary team
- Develop skills in documentation and education regarding child life services
- Identify and utilize appropriate resources within the healthcare setting and within the community

- Understand the role of volunteers and demonstrate entry level volunteer orientation and supervision
- Gain broad knowledge of the field of child life through readings, modules, and interactions with child life staff
- Communicate skills and learning in an interview process

Overview and requirements of Internship:

- The child life internship at Oklahoma Children's Hospital is offered three times a year beginning in January, May, and September
- The internship is a 600 hour (15-16 week) experience supervised by Certified Child Life Specialists qualified under the guidelines set forth by the Association of Child Life Professionals.
- The internship consists of weekly curriculum modules set forth by ACLP and a variety of assignments.
- The student will have weekly meetings with the internship coordinator to provide support and mentorship throughout the student experience.
- Internship rotations will be decided based upon the availability of child life specialists as well as the interest areas of the intern.
 - 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 have an orientation week the first week to observe all of the interdisciplinary teams within the hospital to gain a foundation of understanding of the different teams.
- Students will have the opportunity to plan and implement a Teddy Bear clinic.
- 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.
- Upon acceptance, student's academic institution and OU Health must complete a signed contract for student to begin
 - Student must complete all requirements set forth by the OU Health HR department
 - Drug screening
 - Vaccination requirements
 - Background screening
 - Additional requirements

Internship Schedule:

- Most rotations occur 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.
- The student will be required to work at least one weekend day to gain exposure to hospital wide coverage.
- The internship schedule is as follows:
Week 1: General orientation to the hospital and child life department
Weeks 2-7: Unit Rotation 1
Week 8-9: Choice weeks: Student gets the opportunity to observe additional units
Weeks 10-15: Unit Rotation 2
Week 16: Final week, wrap up assignments, continue clinical work

Interview Information:

- Applications that meet the requirements will be reviewed by the internship committee
- Applicants that move forward will be contacted by the internship committee and asked to submit a video answering a set of questions. These applicants will receive an email with specific instructions.
- The internship committee will select the candidates to participate in the formal interview process.
- Following the interview, additional information may be requested including a list of references, additional questions to answer, etc.
- Offers will be made using the guidelines and dates above set by the Association of Child Life Professionals.
- 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:
Child Life Program Coordinator
ChildLifeInternship@ouhealth.com