

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 UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Our practicum is a 208 hour *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. For more information on Child Life, please visit the Association for Child life professionals (ACLP) website at www.childlife.org.

The practicum is structured so that **the student will complete 16 hours per week for 13 weeks** (2 full 8-hour days per week) for an entire semester. 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).

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*

1. Be **enrolled** in a college or university throughout the duration of the practicum program.
2. Have taken a **minimum of 5 courses** in child life or related topics (i.e. child, family, or human development, family dynamics, psychology, counseling, sociology, expressive therapies).
3. Be at a **minimum junior level** standing in their baccalaureate program before starting the practicum program with a **minimum GPA** of 3.0 or higher.
4. We require a minimum of **50 volunteer hours with typically developing children** (ie summer camps, sport coach, babysitting, etc.)
5. We require a minimum of **25 hours, 50 preferred, of volunteer experience with children in a hospitalized setting**, medical camp, etc

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 and developmental observations, research article readings, activity plans, chart notes, and special projects.

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 Deadline:

FALL: March 15

SPRING: September 5

SUMMER: January 5

Offer dates follow the ACLP guidelines for Internship

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

- a completed application
- one page personal response
- two letters of reference
- an unofficial or official school transcript
- a current resume
- verification of volunteer hours

Please send the COMPLETED application to:

**UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
Child Life Practicum Coordinator, Child Life Department
4401 Penn Avenue, Suite 01266
Pittsburgh, PA 15224-1334**

If you have any additional questions, please contact
Alanna Kanawalsky-(412)692-6364, alanna.kanawalsky@chp.edu

Sincerely,

Alanna Kanawalsky, MS, CCLS

UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
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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 _____

- What days and times are you available to fulfill your practicum hours?
- What other commitments will you have during your practicum?
- Please attach a one-page typed response addressing why you want to be a practicum student and reasons why you should be chosen.

Enclosed is a complete practicum application packet:

- ___ Application
- ___ Typed Response
- ___ College or university official or unofficial transcript(s)
- ___ Two Letters of Recommendation
- ___ Current Resume
- ___ Verification of volunteer 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 _____