



Child Life Program
Nemours Children's Hospital
6535 Nemours Parkway
Orlando, FL 32827

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is a child life specialist? How do I pursue certification?

A. Please visit the Association of Child Life Professionals website for detailed information about child life certification.

<https://www.childlife.org/the-child-life-profession>

Q. How do I know if I'm eligible for a child life practicum or internship?

A. Please visit our web page for application requirements for student programming.

Q. How many students does your child life internship accept?

A. We currently take 1-2 students per semester depending on rotation supervisor availability.

Q. Does your hospital require flu and/or COVID vaccination?

A. Yes. Both are required prior to your start date.

Q. Do you accept affiliated and non-affiliated students?

A. No, we currently only accept students who are enrolled in college. If students will be completing an internship for course credit their school must have a current affiliation agreement with Nemours Children's Hospital or an affiliation agreement may be arranged after acceptance into the practicum and internship programs.

Q. When are child life internship and practicum applications due? How will I be notified if I am accepted?

A. Our hospital follows the guidelines determined by the Association of Child Life Professionals. Application packets must be complete and received by the deadline in order to be considered. Late and/or incomplete packets will not be considered.

Q. Are there fees associated with your program?

A. No, there are no fees. However, students are expected to have reliable transportation and will be responsible for their meal each day.

Q. Is your student program paid? Is housing provided for your student programs?

A. No, our student program is unpaid and housing is not provided. However, parking is provided at no cost.

Q. How long is the child life practicum program?

A. We offer two summer practicums, one during June and one during July and candidates are selected from the same application pool. The practicum is 120 hours, 40hrs/week for 3 weeks.

Q. How long is the child life internship program?

A. Our child life internship program is 640 hours, 40hrs/week for 16 weeks.

Q. What is the schedule for the child life practicum and internship programs?

A. The scheduled hours vary, depending on the schedule of the rotation supervisor. The schedule may include daytime, evening, and/or weekend hours. In addition, there are required readings and assignments that must be completed outside of the student's scheduled hours.

The practicum is full-time, 40 hrs/week. There are two assigned 1-week long rotations.

The internship is full-time, 40 hrs/week. There are two assigned 6-week long rotations.

Q. What is the size and framework of the child life department?

A. We have a Supervisor of Child Life and Creative Arts who oversees the child life specialists and creative arts teams. As a group we are a part of a larger department called Patient and Family Services, which is comprised of child life specialists, social workers, and chaplains. We currently have 6 FTE child life specialists who cover both inpatient and outpatient patient areas, including but not limited to Hematology/Oncology, Surgical Services, Pediatric Intensive Care, Cardiac Intensive Care, Neonatal Intensive Care,

Inpatient Rehabilitation, and the Emergency Department. We also have a Music Therapist and Art Therapist on staff.

Q. What guidance do you have for a student who might want to pursue child life as a career but are not yet eligible for a child life practicum or internship?

A. Those interested in pursuing a career in child life are encouraged to volunteer in a hospital child life program, grief centers, or a camp setting with a child life specialist. Students looking to pursue an internship are highly encouraged to participate in a child life practicum.