



Department of Child Life, Creative Arts Therapy, and
School Programs
Nemours Children's Hospital, Delaware
1600 Rockland Road
Wilmington, Delaware 19803
www.nemours.org/childlife

Child Life Practicum Program — Frequently Asked Questions

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

A. Please visit the Association of Child Life Professionals for detailed information about child life certification. <http://www.childlife.org/child-life-profession>

Q. Where is the Nemours Children's Hospital, Delaware located?

A. Our address is: 1600 Rockland Road, Wilmington, DE 19803.

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 both practicum and internship programming.

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

A. We currently take 1-2 child life practicum students per semester.

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

A. Yes, we accept students who are either enrolled or not 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, Delaware. Affiliation agreements may be arranged after acceptance into the program.

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

A. Application packets must be complete and postmarked by the deadline to be considered. Late and/or incomplete packets will not be considered.

For Fall Semester — Deadline is March 15.

For Spring Semester — Deadline is September 5.

Q. Are there fees associated with your practicum program?

A. No, there are no fees. However, students are expected to have reliable transportation and will be responsible for their meal each day. In addition, nonmatriculated students are responsible for purchasing liability insurance for the duration of the program.

These are two companies that other students have used to purchase liability insurance: Health Providers Service Organization (www.hspo.com) or CNA (800) 982-94910.) You will need to show proof of professional liability

insurance with a limit of not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) per occurrence and Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) in the aggregate.

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

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

Q. How long is the child life practicum program?

A. Our child life practicum program is approximately 160 hours.

Q. What is the schedule of the child life practicum program?

A. The practicum program is two full days per week. Typically, those days are 8 hours in the hospital. There are two rotations in different areas of the hospital. 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.

Q. What are the practicum program assignments to be completed outside of the scheduled hours?

A. Assignments include, but are not limited to:

- Daily hours log, diagnosis log, procedure log
- Weekly journals, developmental assignments
- Two interdisciplinary interviews and papers
- Two therapeutic play activities implemented and corresponding assignment
- Two diagnoses papers per rotation
- "What is Child Life?" paper
- Family Centered Care paper
- Mock internship interview
- Case study/presentation
- Evaluations of program/supervisors
- Mid-term and final self-evaluations

Q. What kind of supervision do practicum students receive?

A. Practicum students have daily guidance and mentorship from their rotation supervisors but also meet weekly with the practicum coordinator for additional supervision, processing and opportunity for questions and support.

Q. What is the size and framework of the Department of Child Life, Creative Arts Therapy and School Programs?

A. We have a director who oversees the entire program. In addition, we have a Clinical Manager, who oversees the child life and creative arts therapy staff. We have a Program Manager, who oversees our Child Activity Coordinators, as well as all our programming and donations. We currently have about 16 Child Life Specialists who cover both inpatient and outpatient patient areas, including but not limited to Hematology/Oncology, Cardiology, Surgical Services, Radiology, Autism, Day Medicine, Dialysis, Intensive Care, Rehabilitation/Orthopedics, Pulmonology/Gastroenterology, Palliative Care, Neonatology, Surgical Step-Down and the Emergency Department. We have both a Music Therapist and Art Therapist on staff.

Our program also has activity coordinators who supervise our centralized playroom and assist with programming on the units.

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 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. The ACLP website is also useful for resources and activities.

Q. Can I shadow a child life specialist at your hospital?

A. Currently due to COVID restrictions, we can't offer a shadow experience at this time. If you are interested in volunteering, please feel free to visit our website to fill out a volunteer application.