

## Child Life Practicum Program - Frequently Asked Questions

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

A. Please visit the Child Life Council for detailed information about child life certification.

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

**Q. Where is the Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children hospital 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/Alfred I. duPont Hospital. 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. Our hospital follows the guidelines determined by the Association of Child Life Professionals. Application packets must be complete and postmarked by the deadline in order to be considered. Late and/or incomplete packets will not be considered.

*For Fall Semester – Deadline is March 15<sup>th</sup>, offer date is the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in May.*

*For Spring Semester – Deadline is September 5<sup>th</sup>, offer date is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in October.*

*For Summer Semester – Deadline is January 5<sup>th</sup>, offer date is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in February.*

**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, non-matriculated 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...

**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 120 hours.

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

A. The practicum program is two days per week, approximately 5 hours per day. 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
- 2 interdisciplinary interviews and papers
- 2 therapeutic play activities implemented and corresponding assignment
- "What is Child Life?" paper
- Family Centered Care paper
- Assignments and activities in preparation for internship
- 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 of our programming and donations. We currently have about 13 Child Life Specialists who cover both inpatient and outpatient patient areas, including but not limited to Hematology/Oncology, 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. Students may participate in a shadowing experience if: a) they are enrolled in college and are actively pursuing child life certification and b) they have volunteered in a Child Life program for a minimum of 50 hrs. Students who meet these criteria can contact the Child Life Internship coordinator for scheduling availability.