

Dear Prospective Student,

Thank you for your interest in our Child Life Practicum Program at Oklahoma Children's Hospital OU Health. We offer a comprehensive practicum program with observational clinical experience. Oklahoma Children's Hospital is a 225-bed pediatric facility with child life currently covering inpatient and outpatient areas.

Our practicum is intended to introduce students to the profession of child life as well as provide exposure to a variety of experiences by hospitalized patients. Students will observe a Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS) working with hospitalized children and families. During our practicum program, our students will be given the opportunity to engage in bedside play, medical art activities, special events, provide assessments of development, and develop coping plans. Practicum students will earn a minimum of 150 total hours. Students will also have assignments and readings.

This packet is designed to help you understand the requirements of our practicum and the application process. It also provides information regarding the practicum program at Oklahoma Children's Hospital. We believe as a student it is important to find a program that fits your lifestyle and learning style. Our goal as a practicum committee is to meet the needs of our students and also provide a well-rounded experience. We want all of our students to finish feeling competent and prepared to apply for internship.

The Child Life Department offers practicum opportunities for spring, summer, and fall semesters. The deadlines for applications shown below are aligned with the Southern Association of Child Life Professionals.

Semester	Application deadline:	Interviews during:	Applicants notified by:
Winter/Spring	September 5 <sup>th</sup>	September	October 7 <sup>th</sup>
Summer	January 3 <sup>rd</sup>	January/February	February 11 <sup>th</sup>
Fall	April 6 <sup>th</sup>	April	May 6 <sup>th</sup>

The application must 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.

Please review the information regarding requirements to be eligible to apply for the practicum program and requirements for submission of application.

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding the practicum program. We are excited about your interest in our program. We can ensure you will have a great practicum experience at Oklahoma Children's Hospital OU Health.

Sincerely,  
Lindsey Gernandt, MS, CCLS  
Child Life Practicum Coordinator, Child Life Department  
Oklahoma Children's Hospital at OU Health  
[Childlifepacticum@ouhealth.com](mailto:Childlifepacticum@ouhealth.com)

## Practicum 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 Health.

### **Child Life Practicum Goals/Objectives:**

The role of a practicum student is very important. While observing how child life specialists provide recreational, educational, and emotional support to our patients and their families, a practicum student will be experiencing growth in the child life field. Practicum students have opportunities to observe child life specialists interact with patients in various areas of the hospital both in groups and in individualized settings. Practicum students should focus on becoming familiar with the hospital environment while assessing the developmental levels of children and identifying stressors that accompany the hospital experience for patients and families.

- 1) Develop a personal comfort level and confidence to function within the hospital environment
- 2) Increase knowledge regarding children's response to hospitalization, issues specific to children's developmental levels, and subsequent planning to meet developmental and/or therapeutic needs
- 3) Increase knowledge regarding the importance of therapeutic play opportunities for hospitalized children and the creation of therapeutic environments
- 4) The ability to build rapport with a child/teen and engage him/her in normalization activities
- 5) Increase knowledge regarding the role of and basic approaches of preparation and medical play
- 6) The ability to set goals and objectives that will enhance personal and professional learning within child life
- 7) General playroom management (i.e., safety, selections of toys, craft materials, activities)

### **Overview of Practicum:**

- The Child Life Practicum at Oklahoma Children's Hospital is offered during the spring, summer, and fall semesters
- The practicum is a 150 hour experience supervised by Certified Child Life Specialists
- We utilize the ACLP Pre-internship modules as a framework of curriculum with the addition of supplemental curriculum specific to our program.
- The practicum consists of several assignments to be able to apply development and assessment skills. There will be a final presentation at the end of the practicum based on an evidence-based theory article as well as a patient case study.
- The student will receive a midterm and a final evaluation.
- Students will have the opportunity to plan and implement a Teddy Bear clinic.
- The student will have weekly debriefs with the practicum coordinator to provide support and mentorship throughout the student experience.
- Practicum rotations will be decided based upon the availability of preceptors and to give the student a well-rounded overview of child life.
  - Available units include: general medicine, hematology/oncology inpatient and outpatient, outpatient surgery, surgical unit, pediatric intensive care, emergency

department, medical specialty unit, neonatal intensive care unit, radiology, dialysis and cardiac service line.

- The student will also complete a play rotation/special event week to aid in the student's ability to learn rapport building skills, apply developmental knowledge, engage in play in the healthcare setting, and assess behavior.
- The student will have an orientation day to go over student guidelines, expectations, and assignments.
- The student will receive guidance and mentorship to apply for internship

**Practicum Schedule:**

- Most rotations fall 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.

**Interview Information:**

- Applications that meet the requirements will be reviewed by the practicum committee
- The practicum committee will select the candidates to participate in the formal interview process that typically consists of one virtual interview.
- 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:  
Lindsey Gernandt, MS, CCLS  
Practicum Coordinator  
[Childlifepacticum@ouhealth.com](mailto:Childlifepacticum@ouhealth.com)

**Requirements to apply:**

1. Must have previous volunteer or work experience with children.
  - Experience in a healthcare setting or established child life program is preferred
2. GPA of 3.0 or above for completed college level coursework
3. Applicants must show the following course with final passing grades or 'in progress' on the academic transcript (unofficial transcripts are encouraged)
  - 1. Child development course
  - 2. Play course
  - 3. Child life course

**Application Requirements:**

- Cover letter-stating interest in the practicum position
- Resume
- Completed practicum application
  - Entire practicum application *must be one-sided, typed, and without staples to be considered.*
  - Here is a direct link to access the application: <https://www.saclp.org/students>
- 2 Reference forms
  - The SACL P application reference form must be used
  - 1 must be from an academic advisor or instructor
  - 1 must be from an individual who has directly observed your work with children and families
  - Reference forms should also be returned to you in sealed envelopes with the individual's signature over the sealed portion of the envelope and placed with your application.
- Unofficial transcripts from each college or university attended

**Reminders:**

- Incomplete, non-typed or late application packets will not be reviewed
- Applications must be complete to be reviewed
- Applications must be postmarked by the deadline to be reviewed
- Submitting an application does not guarantee an interview or placement

**Next steps:**

1. You will receive an email once your application has been received
2. Applications will be reviewed
3. Our top candidates will be contacted for an interview

**Please mail your completed application packet to:**

Oklahoma Children's Hospital  
Child Life Department—Mailbox #71  
Attn: Lindsey Gernandt, Child Life Practicum Coordinator  
1200 Everett Drive  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104