

Duke Child Life Practicum Program

A Child Life Practicum is considered a pre-internship experience for students who are looking to become more familiar with the role of child life specialists in the hospital setting. At Duke, we offer practicums three times a year: Spring, Summer, and Fall:

Practicum Offer and Acceptance Dates			
Practicum Session	Application Deadline	Interview dates	Acceptance Date
Winter/Spring	October 1	Late Oct – Early Nov	2 nd Tuesday in November
Summer	March 1	Late March – Early April	2 nd Tuesday in April
Fall	June 1	Late June – Early July	2 nd Tuesday in July

If you are interested in applying to the Duke Practicum program, please continue to the applicant requirements and materials listed below:

Applicant Requirements:

- Enrolled in a college or university throughout the duration of the practicum experience.
- Enrolled in or having already completed **one** class taught by a Child Life Specialist.
- Enrolled in or having already completed **two** additional classes that would meet the Child Life Council's recommended curriculum requirements. **Please refer to ChildLife.org for more information.
- Minimum cumulative GPA: 3.2
- Completion of at least 25 hours of volunteer or paid experiences with medically-complex children (medical camp, hospital, clinic, rehab facility, inclusive classroom or daycare, etc.)

All interested applicants must submit ALL of the following completed materials to be considered for an interview as a practicum student:

Application Materials:

- Completed practicum application
- Written essay (200 to 500 words) describing your philosophy of Child Life, the strengths you will bring to a practicum, areas in which you would like more growth, and how you envision a practicum experience to contribute to your academic and professional goals.
- Current resume with education and field experiences to date

- Two sealed and signed letters of recommendation (at least one must have directly observed your work with children in any setting)
- Certified and sealed official college or university transcript(s)
- A letter from your academic advisor that clearly states what academic credit you will receive (if any) and any specific academic requirements you will need to accomplish during this experience.

** All materials must be postmarked by the application deadline date to be considered for the practicum. If possible please send sealed recommendation letters and transcripts in the same envelope as your application.*

Please send the entire completed application and materials to:

Robin Hales
Student Practicum Coordinator
Child and Adolescent Life Program
Duke University Medical Center
Box 3417
Durham, NC 27710

****The Duke Mail system will only accept applications sent through the United States Postal Service.****
If you chose to send your application through UPS, Fedex, or any other service,
please use the following address:

Room 1934
Duke Children's Health Center
2301 Erwin Rd.
Durham, NC 27710

Once completed paperwork is reviewed all applicants will be notified of the status of their application. Qualified applicants will be contacted to set up an in-person interview with the child life practicum program coordinator and other Child Life staff.

If you have any other questions regarding the Duke Practicum program, please contact:

(919) 668-4205.
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