



Thank you for your interest in the Student Practicum Program with the Child and Adolescent Life Program at Duke Children's Hospital. Our practicum program is offered two times a year: Spring (January – April) and Fall (September – December).

To be qualified for the practicum position, students must be affiliated with an academic institution for the duration of their practicum; be enrolled in or having already completed one class taught by a Child Life Specialist; be enrolled in or having already completed two additional classes that would meet the Association of Child Life Professionals recommended curriculum requirements; have documentation for at least 50 hours of volunteer experiences with medical fragile children; and have a cumulative 3.2 grade point average or higher.

Enclosed you will find a description of our practicum program, application materials, and a brief application form. Your application packet must be postmarked by the following dates:

June 1 (Fall Session)

October 1 (Spring Session)

A completed application includes:

1. The completed application form.
2. A 200 – 500 word essay 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.
3. Two sealed and signed letters of recommendation (preferably one from someone who knows your academic qualifications and one from someone who has supervised or observed you in a field experience).
4. A copy of your resume, listing your education and field experience to date.
5. Unofficial transcript(s) for all college/universities attended. Please note an official transcript will be required if accepted for the practicum.
6. A cover 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.

It is the applicant's responsibility to solicit the recommendations and official transcript. Upon receipt and review of the completed application, the Practicum Coordinator will be in contact with the applicant. In-person or skype interviews will be conducted following the application review process. Only completed applications with required documentation enclosed in the same packet will be considered for review.

Please return your completed materials to:

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

Please do not hesitate to call (919) 668-4205 should you have any questions regarding the practicum.

Sincerely,
Robin Hales, CCLS

Student Practicum Program Coordinator

DUKE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
Child and Adolescent Life Program
Student Practicum Program

The Child and Adolescent Life Program at Duke Children's Hospital was established in 1969. Since then, Child Life Specialists have been working as part of the interdisciplinary health care team collaborating with nurses, doctors, social workers, school teachers, respiratory therapists, physical and occupational therapists, dieticians, chaplains and other technicians providing comprehensive quality patient care.

It is the mission of the Child and Adolescent Life Program to provide all pediatric patients and their families, both inpatient and outpatient, access to Child Life services. We believe all children have the right to understand what is happening to them, be supported by their caregivers and staff, and have opportunities for play and mastery especially in new or unfamiliar medical environments. As child life specialists, we are trained in helping children and their families overcome challenging medical events while promoting effective coping through play, preparation, education, and self-expressive activities. The Duke Child and Adolescent Life Program specifically provides procedural and emotional support for families and encourages opportunities for optimal development of children facing a broad range of challenging experiences.

The Duke Child Life staff consists of ten full-time and two part-time specialists with Bachelor and Master degrees in a variety of fields including Child Life, Psychology, Education, Child Development, Recreation Administration, Counseling, and Social Work. Child Life services are currently provided in ten areas including: 5100 Inpatient Unit (Allergy/Immunology, Infections Disease, Rheumatology, Endocrinology, Neurology, Plastics and General Pediatric Medicine); Inpatient Hematology/Oncology; 5200 Inpatient Unit (Pediatric Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Transplant Unit); 5300 Inpatient Unit (Pulmonary, Critical Care Medicine, Urology, Orthopedics, Neurosurgery and Gastroenterology); Inpatient Cardiology/PCICU (Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit); PICU (General Pediatric Intensive Care Unit); 5400 inpatient Step-Down Unit; Pediatric Specialty Clinics (Outpatient clinics serving ENT and 26 other subspecialties); Pre-operative Screening Unit; and Pediatric Hematology/Oncology and Brain Tumor clinic.

Child Life Specialists strive to meet the psychosocial and emotional needs of pediatric patients and their families helping the child cope constructively with the stress and anxiety experienced in the health care environment. Specialists also promote the pediatric patient's normal growth and development before, during and after hospitalization or outpatient clinic visits. These primary goals are achieved in a variety of ways including, but not limited to: providing developmentally appropriate therapeutic play opportunities both in the group setting in the playroom and on an individual basis; psychologically and emotionally preparing children and families for medical/surgical and diagnostic procedures; advocating for the needs of children and their families in the health care setting, providing emotional support to patients, parents and siblings, and helping to maintain a child and family friendly environment.

DUKE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
Child and Adolescent Life
Practicum Program

Student Education Program Goals and Objectives

The practicum is an introduction to the hospital environment as well as first-hand observations of Child Life support, assessments, and other interventions at work. Over the course of 15 weeks students will log more than 200 hours in the hospital. During the practicum experience we expect students to:

- Observe the role of Child Life within various settings of the hospital and clinic
- Develop a personal comfort level and confidence to function in the hospital environment
- Expand your knowledge of medical terminology
- Observe Child Life staff providing emotional support for patients and families
- Engage in conversations with patients and families
- Observe and implement group and individual activities for children birth-18 years
- Observe and assist with medical play for individuals and groups of children
- Observe medical procedures when appropriate
- Observe pre-procedural/preoperative preparation
- Observe and assist with supervision of volunteers
- Assist in playroom set-up, maintenance and clean up
- Assist in the facilitation of special events, entertainers, visitors
- Observe interdisciplinary team meetings
- Attend and participate in weekly student seminars by certified Child Life Specialists

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

(919) 668-4205.

Robin Hales, CCLS

robin.hales@duke.edu

DUKE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
Child and Adolescent Life Program
PRACTICUM APPLICATION

Name _____ Date _____

Permanent Address _____

Current Address _____

Current Telephone # _____ Email _____

University or College _____

Major _____

Degree sought BS/BA MS/MA (circle one)

Expected Graduation Date _____

Academic/Practicum Advisor _____

Telephone # _____ Email Address _____

Contact name, address and telephone # for affiliation agreement _____

Which Practicum are you applying for?

Spring Fall
(January – April) (September – December)

For more information contact:
Robin Hales, CCLS, Student Practicum Coordinator
(919) 668-4205.
robin.hales@duke.edu