



Dear Applicant,

We are pleased that you are interested in the child life internship experience at Huntsville Hospital. We accept one intern for a 17-week internship in the fall only. The completed application will include the following:

- Completed Common Internship Application
- Documentation of practicum hours via Practicum Verification Form (100 or more under the supervision of a Certified Child Life Specialist) **must provide Practicum in Progress Form if necessary*
- Documentation of 100 hours of experience with well infants, children, youth and/or families (e.g. Boys & Girls Club, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, YMCA)
- Completed ACLP Common Recommendation Forms must be signed, scanned, and emailed directly from professional to HHChildLife@gmail.com. It is left to the discretion of the professional completing the recommendation if he/she prefers to add a separate letter. Completed recommendation forms sent from each of the following:
 - Professor
 - Certified Child Life Specialist who has supervised your work
 - Other
- Current copy of academic transcript(s) (official or unofficial)
- Resume
- Child life course work completed by the time the internship starts:

Two Options:

 - Option 1: Graduation from an ACLP-endorsed child life academic program
 - Option 2: 10 college courses as indicated by the ACLP
<https://www.childlife.org/docs/default-source/certification/2019-eligibility-details.pdf?sfvrsn=4>
**must provide course in progress forms for those classes still in progress*
- Eligibility Assessment Report or Academic Endorsement Letter

Application and all recommendation forms must be received by the deadline (as indicated by the ACLP) via email: HHChildLife@gmail.com

Following review of your completed application, you may be contacted for an interview. Selection is based on course work, essays, recommendation forms, and the personal interview.

If you have questions, please contact me at michelle.mathews@hhsys.org or (256) 265-7969.

Sincerely,

Michelle Barksdale Mathews

Michelle Barksdale Mathews
Clinical Internship Coordinator

Internship Session	Application Deadlines	Initial Offer Dates	Initial Acceptance Dates	2 nd Offer Date
Fall	March 15	2 nd Tuesday of May	Following Wednesday	Following Thursday

We follow this year's dates given by the Association of Child Life Professionals.



Huntsville Hospital Child Life, Music Therapy, & Creative Arts Department

The Child Life, Music Therapy, & Creative Arts Department at Huntsville Hospital was established in July 1983 with funds and volunteers from the Junior League. The program functioned as a play and entertainment program until 1999. Presently, we are staffed by four full-time Certified Child Life Specialists, three part-time Certified Child Life Specialists, and one child life assistant. We cover the following areas: Pediatric floor, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, St. Jude affiliate clinic, Special Procedures, Pediatric Pre-op, Radiology, Pediatric Emergency Room, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Antepartum, and children of adult patients at the Main campus by consult.

Descriptions of areas served by the Child Life, Music Therapy, & Creative Arts Department are as follows:

Pediatric Floor – There are 37 inpatient beds on the pediatric unit. Diagnoses include: cystic fibrosis, sickle cell anemia, diabetes, sepsis, asthma, trauma, general surgery, orthopedic surgery, seizure disorders, gastrointestinal disorders, and ENT surgeries.

Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) – This is an 11-bed unit. In addition to preparation and support, sibling preparation for visits and family bereavement support are provided.

Pediatric Emergency Department (ER) – The pediatric emergency department has 16 rooms and treats approximately 31,000+ patients yearly. The child life specialist provides preparation and support for procedures and activities for waiting times.

Pediatric Pre-op – A child life specialist prepares patients and families for the surgery experience. A pre-surgery tour is offered weekly. The area consists of 8 preparation rooms and a playroom.

Special Procedures – A child life specialist provides preparation and support for pediatric patients undergoing gastroenterological procedures.

St. Jude Affiliate Clinic – A child life specialist provides interaction, preparation, support, and activities for the children that are undergoing treatment for cancer and blood disorders.

Radiology – A child life specialist provides preparation, support, and activities for children having radiological procedures.

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) – The child life specialist provides developmental play for patients to reach milestones, support and preparation for siblings, support for families, and is part of the palliative care team.

Antepartum – A child life specialist provides therapeutic activities for expression and coping while mothers on bedrest await the arrival of their babies.

Children of Adult Patients – The child life team is on-call for situations that arise at the main campus where interventions with the patient or family provide family-centered care and coping.

Other Responsibilities of Child Life Specialists:

supervise volunteers	facilitate community group visits
provide staff in-services	represent hospital at events for children and youth



Huntsville Hospital Child Life, Music Therapy, & Creative Arts Department Pre-requisites for Internship

Upon acceptance into the Internship Program, student must provide written documentation of the following required items:

- CPR Certification
- Health Insurance
- Professional Liability Insurance
- Negative TB skin test within the past three months. If there is a history of a positive TB skin test, then provide a chest x-ray within the past year
- Varicella (chicken pox) titer drawn
- MMR vaccination
- Completed series of three Hepatitis-B vaccine or informed refusal of the vaccine
- Completed series of COVID-19 vaccine
- It is recommended the student receive a tetanus/diphtheria booster if ten years have elapsed since last booster



Huntsville Hospital Child Life, Music Therapy, & Creative Arts Department Internship Goals and Objectives

- To gain understanding of the impact of hospitalization on the emotional and developmental needs of children and their families
- To become acquainted with the needs of hospitalized children and to recognize creative and flexible programming to meet these needs
- To be an advocate for children and their families
- To prepare patients for medical experiences through the use of developmentally appropriate visual aids, medical equipment, and teaching puppets or dolls
- To gain a basic working knowledge of medical procedures, terminology, and the roles of other professionals within the hospital setting
- To evaluate oneself under the guidance of professionals and to be measured by professional standards
- To demonstrate knowledge of normal growth and development in children
- To demonstrate the ability to plan and implement a group play session
- To enhance one's interpersonal and communication skills
- To articulate the rationale of therapeutic play
- To begin the transition from student to professional
- To equip patients with coping, learning, and mastery skills
- To recognize the diversity of individual and family strengths and needs, acknowledging their support systems and community links



Huntsville Hospital Child Life, Music Therapy, & Creative Arts Department Internship Requirements

- Case study (including disease review)
- Journal
- Mock interview
- Intern project (with presentation)
- Article reviews
- Medical terminology
- In-services which include modules established by the Association of Child Life Professionals
- Assignments directly related to the learning modules established by the Association of Child Life Professionals
- Visit other disciplines within the hospital
- Visit other child life programs in the vicinity
- Daily debriefing with rotation supervisor
- Weekly debriefing with internship supervisor
- Evaluations (each rotation, mid-term, final, and self)