



Practicum Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do you accept non-affiliated students?

Yes, we accept both non-affiliated and affiliated students.

2. What is the size of your hospital?

We have 881 total hospital beds and 92 pediatric beds, which includes neonate beds.

3. What population do you serve?

Child life is present in pediatrics, pediatric intensive care unit, special procedures, antepartum, emergency room, pre-op, radiology, neonatal intensive care unit, and the St. Jude affiliate clinic. We visit the children of adult patients and pediatric patients located in our adult hospital on a consult basis.

4. How many hours do you offer?

There is not an emphasis on number of hours due to the internship readiness initiative. The program hours will vary based on availability of supervisors and units.

5. Do you require volunteer hours before the start of practicum?

No, we do not require volunteer hours prior to the practicum.

6. Do you require a child life class to be completed before the start of practicum?

We do require incoming practicum students have exposure to a child life or child life related class (e.g. intro to child life, loss and bereavement) before practicum. However, this class can be in progress during the application and interview period.

7. Is there a fee associated with the practicum?

We do not charge a fee to complete practicum at our site.

8. What are the housing opportunities for practicum?

Fortunately, our local University of Alabama affiliate in Huntsville has slots open in the dorms for students traveling to Huntsville for the summer. **It is a first come, first serve basis, therefore there can be no guarantee of a slot.** There is a housing fee, but it is much more feasible than an extended stay hotel or apartment. This fee includes access to a gym, Laundromat, and other amenities. Please contact UAH housing via email at housing@uah.edu or call 256-824-6108 and request an intern housing application.

9. What does the workload include?

You will spend the majority of a full-time schedule at the hospital. Along with observational periods, you will complete relevant assignments equivalent to the workload of one class. These assignments can at times be completed while at the hospital, but be prepared to finish these after observation hours at home.

10. What assignments are included during practicum?

The assignments include the following, and are subject to change:

- Daily reflective journal
- Group project
- Observation and assessment form
- Planning and implementing play sessions

11. Are there other learning opportunities during the practicum?

You will also have the opportunity to observe, discuss, and reflect during several learning modules which focus on medical play, bereavement, boundaries, and others.

12. Will I get to work with the other students?

Yes! The group project, learning modules, and group debriefing sessions will allow for interaction with your peers.

13. Will I have an opportunity to observe the behind the scenes activity amongst the child life team?

You will be included for pieces of our staff meetings, particularly when we problem solve a case or have a guest speaker.

14. Can I stay and complete my internship at Huntsville Hospital for Women and Children after my practicum is complete?

We feel once you have met this goal, you would learn more by completing an internship at another site. Hospitals along with child life programs are so different. Being exposed to a variety will better prepare you to be job-entry.

15. Will I be ready for my internship when I leave here?

It is our goal to have you confident and ready for the next step into the field. We are cognizant of the internship readiness knowledge, skills, and abilities and strive to incorporate these competencies into the experience as an extension to those competencies met within the academic realm. Please see <https://www.childlife.org/docs/default-source/certification/internships/ksas-internship-readiness-one-pager.pdf> for more details. We dedicate our work to not only patients and families, but to you as the student as well.

16. Do you follow the ACLP Pre-Internship Learning Modules?

Yes. The Pre-Internship Learning Modules is the foundation of our pre-internship practicum experience. Please see <https://www.childlife.org/docs/default-source/certification/internships/aclp-pre-internship-modules.pdf> for more information.

17. Are students required to be vaccinated for Covid 19?

Yes, all students at Huntsville Hospital are required to be vaccinated to be able to participate in this learning opportunity. Proof of vaccination must be presented in order to obtain a badge.