



Child Life Internship Frequently Asked Questions

Before submitting your internship application, please review the list of questions below.

Where can I gain more information about Child Life as a career and how to become certified?

The Association of Child Life Professionals (ACLP) has a wealth of information about the Child Life career and the requirements to become certified. Please review the requirements to becoming a Certified Child Life Specialist at <https://www.childlife.org/certification> to ensure you are eligible to complete an internship prior to applying.

When should I apply for an internship?

The Child Life program at Children's Wisconsin follows the guidelines for application as recommended by the ACLP. Please view the application deadlines and offer dates at <https://www.childlife.org/certification/become-certified/clinical-internship>.

Do you accept interns that are not currently enrolled in/affiliated with an academic institution?

No. Children's Wisconsin is unable to accept unaffiliated students. Please inquire with your academic supervisor to see if Children's Wisconsin has an affiliation agreement in place with your academic institution.

What is an affiliation agreement?

A contract between the academic institution and Children's Wisconsin. Topics included in the affiliation agreement include but are not limited to internship/placement terms and termination, responsibilities of both the academic institution and the hospital, governing law, and liability.

What do I do if an affiliation agreement does not exist between my academic site and Children's Wisconsin?

We are unable to review applications from students attending an institution that does not have an affiliation agreement in place with Children's Wisconsin. Please request your Child Life academic program leader to initiate an affiliation agreement by emailing childlife@childrenswi.org. Please note: if an agreement is unable to be made by the end of the internship application period, you will be ineligible for an internship at Children's Wisconsin.



Do I need to have all academic courses completed prior to internship?

Yes. All academic courses must be complete prior to the start date of the internship.

How many interns are accepted each semester?

The number of interns accepted per semester varies based on number of applicants and supervisor availability. Typically, one Child Life intern is accepted per semester.

What are the dates for the internship experience?

We abide by the application deadline/offer dates set forth by the ACLP. Please refer to the ACLP website for updated or current dates. We accept interns during Fall and Winter/Spring semesters only. We acknowledge the potential to have to pause programming should circumstances beyond of control change. This includes but is not limited to variables such as staffing, COVID-19, etc.

What is the structure of the Child Life internship?

Interns rotate through different areas of the hospital during their internship experience. Interns will have the opportunity to shadow a variety of both inpatient and outpatient areas. Internship hours will match those of the rotation supervisors; this may include weekend and evening hours. Interns will be required to complete a variety of assignments, including daily journals, module assignments, case studies, a final project, etc.

Do interns get to pick their rotation placements?

Interns have an opportunity to share which units/populations in the hospital are most interesting to them. Ultimately the Internship Coordinator makes the final decision on internship rotation placements based on a variety of factors such as intern interests, supervisor availability, staffing needs, etc.

When do I take the exam – before or after the internship is complete?

After the internship is complete. The Internship Coordinator will sign and verify that all standards for entry level clinical competence have been achieved. This includes the Clinical Experience Verification form that is necessary to provide to the ACLP to establish eligibility to sit for the exam.

Is there a fee to complete a Child Life internship at Children's Wisconsin?

No, there is no fee.



Child Life and Creative Arts Therapies

Do Child Life Interns receive pay or a stipend?

No, there is no pay or stipend provided to Child Life Interns at Children's Wisconsin.

Does Children's Wisconsin provide housing or transportation for Child Life Interns?

No, interns are responsible for finding their own housing and transportation for the duration of the internship.