

University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital
Child-Family Life Department
Internship Application Face Sheet

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Applying for: ___ Fall (due by May 5th) ___ Spring (due by September 5th)

Is this internship for college credits: ___ Yes ___ No

Please Enclose:

- Written essay
- Professional Resume
- College transcript
- Two letters of recommendation
- Verification of hours working with well children on institution letterhead
- Verification of hours working with hospitalized children on institution letterhead

Send To:

University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital
Child-Family Life Department
Attention Internship Coordinator
2450 Riverside Ave. S. MB 225
Minneapolis, MN 55454

Interview Requirement:

Qualifying applicants will be interviewed before an intern selection is made. We recommend that applicants interview in person, as it is important for applicants to see the facilities and meet the staff as well as for CFL staff to meet the prospective interns.

I confirm that the information provided in the application is true to the best of my knowledge. I further understand that any false statements on the application shall be sufficient for rejection for this internship or immediate discharge when discovered.

Signature: _____

Date: _____



University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital Child Life Internship Program

Overview

The University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital is Minnesota's only children's hospital that is part of an academic health center, and is home to one of the nation's top twenty pediatric research programs. This state-of-the-art, 208 bed facility provides care for a diverse population of chronically and acutely ill children.

Minnesota's first "green" children's hospital, the facility features an environmentally sensitive design, eco-friendly materials and green spaces-including a healing garden.

The Child-Family Life Department was established in 1977 to provide emotional, educational and social support to hospitalized children and their families. The program team members include 1 program manager, 30 child life specialists, and 1 part-time office assistant. Team members also collaborate with staff of the family resource center, an art therapist, and a music therapist to provide a comprehensive care plan for the patients we serve.

Child life specialists serve as members of interdisciplinary teams in the following patient care areas: two pediatric medical surgical units, pediatric intensive care unit, pediatric blood and marrow transplant unit, pediatric emergency department, pediatric kidney center, pediatric sedation and observation unit, pediatric radiology, pediatric surgery, and pediatric specialty clinics.

Program Description

Child Life interns have trained at the university hospital for over 15 years. It is the goal of our Child Life Program to seek the most highly motivated and highly qualified intern candidate. One of the goals of our program is to assist candidates in their preparation for Child Life Certification and entry into an extremely competitive job market. Entrance requirements and internship content are strictly based on the Child Life Councils Standards of Academic and Clinical Preparation Programs in Child Life, Child Life Competencies and on current Child Life Certification Committee recommendations. Our concentrated internship program offers last semester seniors, graduate students, or graduates the opportunity to refine clinical skills. The intern who successfully completes this educational program will have been provided the necessary experiences that establishes and/or enhances their competence in providing Child Life interventions in inpatient, outpatient, and special care units.

Internship placements offer no stipend and do not guarantee future employment at the University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital. Housing, transportation, medical insurance and other expenses are the responsibility of the intern.



Entrance Requirements

The following minimum entrance requirements are consistent with national standards endorsed by the Child Life Council.

- Bachelor's Degree or last semester senior
- Minimum GPA of 3.0
- Verifiable Supervised Clinical Experience
 - At least 100 hours of well child experience
 - At least 100 hours of experience with hospitalized children
- Have had experience with all age groups of children; infant/toddler, school-aged, and adolescent
- Ability to commit to child life internship. The University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital offers a 15 week, 600 hour full time internship. Work hours vary depending upon the needs of the patients on each unit.
- Ability to participate in a mandatory personal interview
- Ability to pass a mandatory health screening

The Application Process

Individuals meeting the minimum entrance requirements may submit an application. Applications not containing all of the following components will be considered incomplete. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. A complete application must include the following:

- Internship Application Face Sheet
- A written essay (500 word maximum) to specifically address the following:
 - Describe your professional goals for this internship
 - Describe life experiences that have shaped your interest in a Child Life career
 - Strengths you will bring to a Child Life internship
 - A personal statement that describes your philosophy of Child Life
- Professional resume outlining academic and clinical experiences, as well as other qualifications
- College transcripts (Please circle the coursework that fulfills the requirements for certification as established by the Child Life Council, including the one required Child Life course. This information can be found online at www.childlife.org. All applicants must have completed the required coursework to be considered.)
- Two letters of recommendation from faculty, supervisors, employers, or advisors who have directly observed and can assess your work with children, parents, and professionals. Recommendations must address specific knowledge and skills relevant to your work.

It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to confirm receipt of the application packet.



Intern Selection Process

- Selection of Child Life Interns is highly competitive. As recommended by the Child Life Council, the following criteria heavily influence intern selection:
 - High level of academic achievement
 - College major, depth of core courses
 - Performance during supervised field experience
 - Excellent written and verbal communication skills
 - Strong personal qualities appropriate for interrelationships with children, families, peers, supervisors and members of the health profession, as per references and interview process
 - Competence in knowledge of child development, child life theory and the hospitalized child
- After the application deadline passes, all complete applications will be reviewed and screened by the Child Life Internship Selection Committee. Applications meeting and/or exceeding minimum entrance requirements may be contacted to schedule an interview.
- All applicants submitting complete applications will be notified, in writing, of their status in the intern selection process

The Internship Experience

- Upon official acceptance to the Internship Program, a written contract will be mutually agreed upon and signed by the intern, the child life internship coordinator and the student advisor (when applicable). Prior to starting the internship, interns will receive by mail, general information regarding dress code, necessary items, parking, and the orientation schedule. Interns will be held to the same high standards as the University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital staff with regard to respect of patient rights, confidentiality, and adherence to Child Life and hospital policies and procedures. Failure to meet the basic requirements of this agreement may result in immediate termination of the internship.
- Upon official acceptance as a Child Life intern and prior to the beginning of the internship, the individual must obtain and read 2 of the following:
 - Gaynard, Laura, et al. *Psychosocial Care of Children in Hospitals: A Clinical Practice Manual From the ACCH Child Life Research Project*. Rockville, MD: Child Life Council, 1998.
 - Rollins, Judy A., Rosemary Bolig, PhD and Carmel C. Mahan, MEd, CCLS. *Meeting Children's Psychosocial Needs Across the Health-Care Continuum*. Austin, TX: Pro-Ed, Inc., 2005.
 - Thompson, Richard H. *The Handbook of Child Life: A Guide for Pediatric Psychosocial Care*. Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas Publisher, LTD, 2009.

These books can be ordered directly from:

The Child Life Council
11820 Parklawn Drive, Suite 202
Rockville, MD 20852
www.childlife.org



- The Child-Family Life internship is a 15 week/600 hour program. No more than one student is accepted at any one time, allowing for a more individualized experience.
- The first week includes an orientation to the health system, Child-Family Life department, and the children we serve. During the following weeks the intern will work directly with children and under the close supervision of Certified Child-Family Life staff in both inpatient and outpatient settings.
- Two inpatient rotations, a medical surgical unit and a critical care unit, will total 7 weeks and will consist of working with children of all ages with a variety of healthcare concerns.
- Interns will also have the opportunity to work 8 weeks with the special needs of children in an outpatient setting which include; specialty clinics, phlebotomy lab, radiology, sedation, emergency department and the pediatric surgery unit.
- General internship experiences and responsibilities include but are not limited to :
 - Planning and implementing developmentally appropriate play interactions for children of all ages, both on an individual and group basis
 - Refining developmental observation and assessment skills and techniques
 - Increasing knowledge of coping and stress reduction techniques
 - Collaborating as a member of the multidisciplinary healthcare team
 - Practicing and improving charting skills
 - Increasing knowledge of medical terminology and treatment plans
 - Observing and performing developmentally appropriate preparation and support interventions
 - Educating parents, siblings and family members
 - Guiding and working with volunteers
 - Completing assignments including readings, medical case studies, journals and special projects

If you have any questions please contact the Internship Coordinator:

Sandy Forseth

Sforset1@fairview.org

