



Dear applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Child Life practicum program at UF Health Shands Children's Hospital! This is the first step in your journey towards becoming a certified child life specialist. The practicum has multiple components including shadowing child life specialists, leading groups in the playroom, facilitating one on one interventions with patients, and so much more. In addition to clinical work, our practicum students have multiple assignments that are to be completed outside of the hospital. Students will receive evaluations throughout their practicum, with a final evaluation at the end of the semester. Please remember that this is your opportunity to be an enthusiastic learner, demonstrate your passion and professional aspirations, and to establish your qualifications for a child life internship.

Program Pre-requisites:

1. Completion of Junior year of a Bachelors level degree
2. GPA of at least 3.0
3. At least 100 hours of experience working with children of all ages (of which a minimum of 30 hours must be completed with a child life program under the direct supervision of a certified child life specialist)
4. At least 5 completed courses in child development, family studies, psychology, sociology, or expressive therapies, of which one course must be taught by a certified child life specialist. (with a grade of 3.0 or higher for these courses)

Application requirements:

1. Completed application form submitted by deadline
2. Unofficial college transcript(s)- Please note that in some cases, the program may request official transcripts before a practicum offer is confirmed.
3. Two letters of recommendation (at least one related to your work with children; preference given for letters written by a CCLS)
4. Current professional resume

**Semester**

Fall  
Spring  
Summer

**Application Due Date\* (Postmarked by)**

April 15<sup>th</sup>  
September 25<sup>th</sup>  
January 25<sup>th</sup>

Please mail your completed application to:

Attn.: Child Life, C/O Bethany Fisackerly and Chelsie Thomas  
1600 SW Archer Rd  
Gainesville, FL 32608

Again, we thank you for your interest in our practicum program.

Sincerely,  
The UF Health Shands Child life practicum program

# Practicum Job Description

## Program Components:

1. 120 hours of onsite experience (unless previously arranged with our team in relation to academic requirements),
  - a. Fall/Spring: average 8-10 hours a week for the course of the semester (approx. 16 weeks)
  - b. Summer: Our team will coordinate with students to identify a time frame that fits both with their schedule and with departmental availability.
2. Observation of comprehensive child life services including medical play, volunteer coordination, preparation, and documentation
3. Formal and informal education on child development, family-centered care, and impact of hospitalization on children and families
4. Exposure to medical terminology, environment, and interdisciplinary team members
5. Facilitation of groups and one on ones to provide therapeutic interventions to patients
6. Rotation between three units in the hospital, including both inpatient and outpatient settings

## Assignments:

1. Creation of goals for each rotation
2. Weekly reflective journal
3. Weekly activity plans
4. Weekly patient assessments
5. What is child life Project
6. Diagnosis based research project
7. Case study
8. Assigned readings
9. Practice documentation on at least two patients
10. Final project (selected by practicum student based on observed needs of the department)
11. Evaluation of your practicum experience

## Student expectations

1. Attend all scheduled shifts unless approved to miss by both unit supervisor and child life practicum supervisor
2. Complete all assignments by the designated due date
3. Comply with all hospital and child life policies
4. Approach practicum with a desire to learn and a positive attitude

# Child Life Program Practicum Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name and Phone Number:

\_\_\_\_\_

College/University:

\_\_\_\_\_

Major/Degree Sought:

\_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Date of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ Major GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

What additional course requirements must you meet before graduation?

\_\_\_\_\_

Requested Practicum session: Fall \_\_\_\_\_ Spring \_\_\_\_\_ Summer \_\_\_\_\_

Our practicum is highly competitive and we often receive more applications than there are openings. Should you not be selected for the requested session, will you be available to apply for future semesters? (If so, which ones?)

\_\_\_\_\_

What days and times are you **not** available to fulfill your practicum hours? (this practicum requires a minimum of 120 hours, the information you provide will be utilized to create your schedule should you be selected as a student)

Will you have any other commitments during your practicum semester? (i.e. job, volunteering, school, etc.)

Please list all volunteer and work experiences you have had with children:

Organization Name	Start Date and End Date	Total Hours	Duties

## Essay Questions

(Please keep answers to 200 words or less)

Why do you want to become a child life specialist?

What are three goals you have for your child life practicum?

What are your expectations of a practicum?

You are assigned to the room of a three-year-old male on isolation. Name some activities and materials that you would bring to the patient and why you selected those activities.