



The Children's Hospital

www.thechildrenshospital.org

## Internship Program Description

### *Purpose*

To provide Therapeutic Recreation/Child Life graduate and undergraduate students the opportunity to learn the working aspects of a pediatric setting in order to prepare them for certification and employment.

### *Program*

The field experience at The Children's Hospital is comprised of 14 weeks, 40 hours per week for a total of 560 hours. The internship is offered 2 times a year - spring and fall.

Following a week of orientation, the student focuses on patient care for the next 12 weeks. These 12 weeks of clinical work are usually divided into 3 rotations, each is four weeks long. The internship concludes with a "wrap-up week".

### *Goals*

By the end of the internship the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate basic knowledge of human growth and development for birth through young adults.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the effects of stress and trauma on children's behavior and development.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the psychosocial needs of patients and families.
4. Observe and assess children's developmental and/or functional skills and adjustment to healthcare experiences.
5. Demonstrate use of goal and process-oriented play to help children cope.
6. Identify and implement therapeutic interventions based on assessment.
7. Evaluate outcomes of therapeutic interventions.
8. Demonstrate ability to select, modify and adapt activities, equipment, and facilities to meet individual patient needs and/or group needs.
9. Demonstrate a working understanding of Family-Centered Care.
10. Work effectively with patients, families, staff and community.
11. Demonstrate ability to convey patient information through written documentation and oral presentation.
12. Perform basic administrative tasks, which support the program.
13. For Therapeutic Recreation Interns, recognize job analysis skill areas as they apply to a pediatric setting.
14. For those Therapeutic Recreation interns seeking dual internship, certification course work will include a history of child life and theoretical backgrounds.

### *Supervision*

Throughout the internship, students receive primary supervision from a certified specialist in their discipline. Their first clinical rotation is done with their primary supervisor. Another staff member in TR or CL facilitates the following rotations. The student maintains professional supervision with their primary supervisor throughout the internship.

**Prerequisites**—all applicants must have at least a 3.0 GPA

*Please be note: dual internships are only available for TR interns due to certification requirements.*

### *Therapeutic Recreation*

As recommended by NCTRC, internships are scheduled as, or soon after, the intern is completing the majority of required therapeutic recreation and general recreation coursework as verified on the official transcript you send us.

Interns will have completed the following content coursework and received a “C” or above:

- Foundations of Professional Practice
- Assessment of Therapeutic Recreation
- TR Intervention/Program Planning
- Helping/Counseling Skills

Interns will have completed courses with supportive content courses related to:

- Abnormal Psychology
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Human Growth and Development

Other coursework that the TR/CL Department has a strong preference for is:

- Healthcare Organization and Delivery
- Legal Aspects of Healthcare
- General Psychology
- Kinesiology
- Motor Skill Learning
- Survey of Medical/Disabling Conditions
- Intro. to Recr./Leisure Services

The TR/CL department strongly recommends that interns entering a pediatric setting have experience with:

- Children who have been hospitalized.
- A specific pediatric patient population such as children with conditions related to Rehab, Oncology, Cardiac, children with developmental delays, etc.
- Children with normal growth and development.

Dual certification interns will have additional requirements throughout internship. Without completing pre-requisites and additional assignments, supervisor will not sign off on secondary certification paperwork. Past interns have recommended allowing yourself 3 months to prepare for dual internships.

### *Child Life*

As recommended by CLC, interns must have either completed a bachelor’s degree, or be in the final semester of study for that degree. Preference is given to those applicants with a degree geared toward Child Life.

1. Interns should have completed their bachelor’s degree coursework when applying for an internship or should be very close to completing it.
2. Interns will have received a grade of “C” or above in relative coursework.
3. Coursework that the TR/CL department has a strong preference for is:
  - Child Life
  - Child Development
  - Human Development/Family Studies
4. The TR/CL department strongly recommends that interns entering a pediatric setting have experience with:
  - Children who have been hospitalized.
  - A specific pediatric patient population such as children with conditions related to Rehab, Oncology, Cardiac, children with developmental delays, etc.
  - Children with normal growth and development.



## *Learning Experiences*

Students gain information and experience through a wide variety of assignments. Following is a list of core learning experiences included in the internship program:

*Daily Journal*

*Internship Project including professional presentation to staff*

*Interdisciplinary Interviews*

*Patient Care Conferences/Staffings/Rounds*

*Documentation*

*Patient Assessment*

*Educational Films*

*Program Planning & Group Facilitation Skills*

*Preparation Tours*

*Volunteer Orientation*

*Department Statistics*

*Weekly Tutorials*

*Required Readings*

*Budget*

*Site Visits*

*Grand Rounds*

*Family Services Meetings*

*CHEX*

*Each rotation may have work that can be completed prior to arrival. Completing it prior to internship commencement will significantly prepare you for each rotation and reduce work load during internship.*