

Music Therapy Internship Application



Internship Director and Critical Care Internship Supervisor:	Hillary Gómez, MM, MT-BC Hxgomez3@texaschildrens.org (832) 826-5933	Physical Address:	Texas Children's Hospital Child Life Department 6621 Fannin St. WT16227 Houston TX 77030
Acute Care Internship Supervisor:	Marial Biard, MM, MT-BC, NMT-F		
NICU Internship Supervisors:	Maribeth Brinkley, MT-BC, NICU-MT Hannah Flores, MT-BC, NMT, NICU-MT		
Hematology/Oncology Internship Supervisor:	Phoebe Bair, MT-BC		

About Texas Children's Hospital

Texas Children's Hospital, located in the heart of the world-renowned Texas Medical Center, is the nation's largest not-for-profit pediatric hospital in the world with licensure for approximately 1,000 beds. This state-of-the-art facility provides primary, secondary, and tertiary care for a diverse population of chronically and acutely ill children. Texas Children's Hospital collaborates with the Baylor College of Medicine to support a comprehensive pediatric medical education and research.

Populations Served by Music Therapy

Music therapy services include a variety of group, individual, and co-treatment sessions with patients and families. The music therapy team also provides music therapy groups for staff members to build morale, target stress relief, and prevent burnout.

Music Therapy services have been provided primarily in the following units and care areas at Texas Children's Hospital.

The **Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)** is a 173-bed unit that provides care to the sickest newborn and premature infants in the region. Diagnoses range from extreme prematurity to genetic disorders requiring long-term care. Parents and infants receive the most cutting-edge care and treatments in our Level IV and Level II NICUs.

Acute Care encompasses several units, some of which include: the Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit (IRU), a specialty rehabilitation unit that provides individualized treatment for many different diagnoses and injuries, the Neurology & Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU) which provides care to patients who have undergone neurosurgery, spinal surgery, or are inpatient for seizure and shunt monitoring, and the Behavioral Health and Adolescent Medicine Units which focus specifically on mental health, eating disorders, and chronic illnesses.

Critical Care units are housed within the Legacy Tower of TCH and include: the Pediatric Intensive Care Units (PICU) and Transitional Intensive Care Units (TICU), which serve our most critically-ill patients. These floors are dedicated to trauma care, neurology, and pulmonary patients. Additionally, the Legacy Tower is home to the Texas Children's Hospital Heart Center, the #1 Heart Center in the nation which serves both acute and critical care patients with cardiovascular-related diagnoses.

Hematology/Oncology care is spread throughout TCH, with cancer and blood disorder patients seen in Acute Care, the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit, PICU/TICU, and in our outpatient infusion clinic. Through a joint venture with M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Texas Children's offers the most pediatric hematology/oncology clinical trials in the nation, leading the way in research and drawing in patients from around the globe.

Music Therapy Internship Application



What to Expect during an Internship at Texas Children's Hospital

Music therapy internships are typically offered twice a year, with start dates accommodating to the supervisor's availability and internship applicants' preference.

During the internship you can expect to work as part of a multidisciplinary team providing music therapy services that benefit the overall goals and coping of children in the hospital. Involvement in daily rounds on current units are a part of keeping informed about patient needs and communicating with the medical team. Throughout the internship, interns will work with a variety of healthcare professionals including nurses, rehabilitative therapists (including physical, occupational, and speech therapists), child life specialists, psychologists, and social workers.

Interns are expected to grow throughout the internship through purposefully assigned projects and development of personal goals. Projects can include article reviews, case study presentations, and pilot program development/implementation. Educational opportunities will be available throughout the internship covering a wide range of healthcare-related topics both onsite at Texas Children's Hospital in the Texas Medical Center, and in the surrounding Houston area. Topics of available educational trainings will vary but may include: palliative care, viewing hospitalization through a developmentally-focused lens, and ethical decisions in healthcare. Interns will also be encouraged to network with other music therapy interns and professionals in the area through planned shadowing, events, and gatherings.

Based on the date of entry, the internship will be primarily based on the supervisor's specialized care area. Please inquire with the internship director for the primary location of upcoming internship rotations. The intern will have the opportunity to observe and provide services to other hospital units through intern projects and ongoing pilot and research programs. The daily caseload of music therapy at Texas Children's Hospital varies greatly based on the changing needs of patients and families. However, it is not uncommon to provide services for 6-8 patients on any given day. The music therapy program has a wide variety of instruments, technology, books, and music available for use by the intern. There is also a recording studio with state-of-the-art equipment as well as office space to work on planning, projects, and daily documentation. Due to strict infection control policies, all instruments and tools needed for the intern to execute their role will be provided by the hospital.

Individual one-hour supervision sessions will be scheduled weekly between the internship director/supervisor and intern. This is a time for the intern to reflect on experiences, ask questions, and bring new ideas as well as practice musical skill development as it relates to the therapeutic process. The internship director/supervisor will be present observing and supervising intern sessions throughout the internship experience. While interns will have the opportunity to be the primary therapist for patients throughout their internship, interns will always have access to support and guidance.

Please email for application deadlines and information about upcoming internship rotation placements.

Music Therapy Internship Application



Internship Training and Supervision Philosophy

Hillary: I truly believe that every music therapy assessment, session, and interaction should be personalized to the individual, reflecting my philosophy of eclecticism. This especially holds true as our critical care units encompass a wide variety of music therapy goals; from regulated sensory stimulation to end of life support, developing an eclectic practice makes us stronger and better able to serve patients, family, and staff alike. As an internship supervisor, my role is to support you not only as an intern but as a future colleague, and I know that an internship here at TCH will help you become the best music therapist you can be!

Marial: I am a jack of all methodologies and believe every child deserves the approach that works best for them. I draw from many music therapy methods within a child-centered framework, especially biomedical, psychosocial, and neuroscience-based models for pain. As a Neurologic Music Therapy Fellow, I integrate NMT techniques in pediatric rehabilitative practice. Both the music and the therapeutic relationship are essential, and I often use in-the-moment improvisation to meet each child's unique needs. In weekly 1:1 supervision, we focus on your musical and clinical growth, coping, and self-care so you can become a confident, successful colleague.

Maribeth: Since every patient and family has unique needs and experiences, I believe in adapting my approach in a way that will best support their needs. I consider myself an eclectic music therapist, pulling from behavioral, humanistic, biomedical, and developmental models. I have a passion for music therapy for infants, and I've sought expertise in this area by completing my NICU-MT certification through the National Institute for Infant & Child Medical Music Therapy. One of my favorite things about being an internship supervisor is supporting your unique ideas and interests. Whether it be related to patient care or internship projects, I am here to listen and assist you in making your ideas a reality. You only get one music therapy internship, and I am here to help you make the most of your 6 months!

Hannah: An eclectic approach to sessions, drawing primarily from humanistic, developmental, and biomedical models is how I adapt my approach to meet the unique needs of patients and families. As a dedicated NICU-MT, I am passionate about bringing the innate experience of music into the hospital to promote a brave, neuroprotective space for patients and families to try new sounds, new toys, and new songs together. Internship is a time to try anything and everything! Through 1:1 supervision, co-treatment, and internship projects, I am here to support your experiences and help shape you into the best music therapist and future colleague you can be.

Phoebe: Like my colleagues, I draw from many frameworks. Due to the high psychosocial needs in my population, I largely work from a humanistic, family-centered lens, incorporating memory-making and legacy work into every patient's treatment plan. Through a strength-based approach, I let my patients lead the way and protect their autonomy as much as possible. I love to collaborate with other disciplines to give families the best experience possible during their treatment. Your internship is a safe space to try new things, experiment, and fail forward! I am here to support you as you find your own unique approach.

Entry-Level Requirements

In order to be considered for this internship, candidates must demonstrate the following music skills and professional characteristics as part of the interview/consideration process:

- Play piano and guitar while singing in tune
- Strong vocal skills
- Demonstrate professionalism and ability to accept feedback
- Demonstrate interest and an understanding of the pediatric population through course work and/or self-initiated reading and study
- Collaborate effectively with other disciplines

Music Therapy Internship Application



Additionally, candidates will be expected to demonstrate the following requirements as aligned with the current music therapy job description at Texas Children's Hospital:

Physical	Sensory	Mental/ Emotional
• Stand • Sit • Kneel • Bend • Climb stairs • Lift/move up to 50 lbs. • Gross manipulation (hand/arm) • Fine manipulation (hand/arm) • Maintain personal hygiene and appearance	• Near visual acuity • Far visual acuity • Depth perception • Ability to adjust focus • Close hearing (speech, telephone, etc.) • Remote hearing (overhead pages, alarms, etc.)	• Cope with anger/ fear/ hostility in others in a calm way • Cope with a high level of stress • Demonstrate a high degree of patience • Handle a high degree of flexibility • Prioritize stressful situations • Verbal Communication

Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Music Therapy Internship Application



Evaluation/Interview Process

After reviewing the internship application and accompanying attachments, eligible candidates will be contacted to begin the interview process. The interview process will occur in the following stages:

- 1st Round: Initial phone interview
- 2nd Round: On-site interview

Consists of:

- Interview with TCH Music Therapy Team
- Music skills evaluation
- Facility tour

Candidates selected for the 2nd round of interviews will be sent an interview preparation sheet with information regarding specific musical skills to demonstrate approximately **one week** prior to the interview date. A virtual option for the 2nd round of interviews will be made available on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the internship director.

Just as the internship director/supervisor will be interviewing interns to decide on the best fit for each internship position, interns should also be interviewing the internship director/supervisor and facility to make the best decision for their interests and needs.

Administrative Requirements

Once offered a position, interns will be required to pass a background test and are subject to drug testing, both facilitated and paid for by Texas Children's Hospital. The internship will officially begin once those tests have been successfully completed, the affiliation agreement has been signed, and liability insurance has been established. Accepted interns will also be required to have a current TB skin test prior to the start date. This must be obtained and paid for by the intern with documentation sent in advance and brought on the first day. Interns will also be required to receive the flu vaccination prior to the internship start date. **INTERNS WHO REFUSE THE REQUIRED FLU VACCINATION FOR ANY REASON ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO COMPLETE AN INTERNSHIP AT THIS FACILITY – NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Texas Children's Hospital requires a legal affiliation with each intern's university. This is a legal document that the intern's academic advisor should know about and is different from the Internship Agreement in which your academic advisor evaluates your skills before entering your internship. The legal affiliation must be completed before the start of the internship.

ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

To be completed/provided to Internship Director prior to start of internship at Texas Children's Hospital:

1. **Legal Affiliation Agreement** between TCH and the school where the intern is enrolled
 - a. The process of establishing this document will begin as soon as the intern has accepted an offer
2. **Background check and drug test**
 - a. Provided by TCH and completed during the first day of internship
3. **TB skin test**
 - a. Provided by the intern with documentation of results brought on the first day of internship
4. **Flu vaccination** (if internship occurs during any part of flu season as determined by hospital administration)

Music Therapy Internship Application



- a. Provided free of charge by TCH, or documentation of outside vaccination may be provided

5. **Proof liability insurance**

- a. Provided independently by intern or through the university

Music Therapy Internship Application



Additional Information

Internship start dates: Two internships will be offered each calendar year. Start dates vary per intern's preferences and supervisor availability.

Housing: Texas Children's Hospital does not provide any housing for interns, but the internship director/supervisor can provide you with a list of housing options and suggestions in and around the area.

Stipend: There is no stipend currently offered.

Food: There are many food choices in and around Texas Children's Hospital. Some food establishments provide an employee discount which interns would qualify for with their intern badge.

Transportation/parking: Your own transportation will be required to and from the hospital, and there are several parking options available, some paid and some free. Texas Children's Hospital is located on the metro rail at the Dryden/TMC stop. There are many apartment options along the metro rail route that provide easy access to the hospital without needing a vehicle.

Liability insurance: Interns are required to supply proof of liability insurance prior to starting the internship. Liability insurance is available through HPSO: Contact HPSO at 1-800-982-9491 or find them through the AMTA website. This may be provided by your university and is the responsibility of the intern to ensure coverage.

Dress code: Students must wear departmental approved attire. More information will be provided once a start date has been set. Sleeves must be above the elbow when working with patients. Temperatures can fluctuate throughout different areas of the hospital, and a nice, non-hooded jacket can be worn in non-clinical areas. Shoes must be closed toe and non-slip, and can be tennis shoes, clogs or something similar.

Please do not hesitate to contact Hillary Gómez, Internship Director, with additional questions regarding the internship program at Texas Children's Hospital.

All the best in your journey toward internship!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hillary Gómez" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hillary Gómez, MM, MT-BC
Internship Director
832-826-5933
hxgomez3@texaschildrens.org

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EMAIL COMPLETED APPLICATION PACKET TO:

Hillary Gómez, MM, MT-BC, Internship Director
Hxgomez3@texaschildrens.org

DESCRIPTION OF REQUIRED MATERIALS

1. Completed, typed, and signed application

- All materials must be submitted as an email attachment
- No Google Drive links can be accessed within the Texas Children's system

2. Original narrative essay (limit two pages) describing why you are pursuing music therapy as a career. The essay should be written in 12-point font, Times New Roman, double-spaced with APA formatting. Please include the following information:

- Reasons for choosing this particular internship experience, and what your expectations are from both the internship director and this internship program
- A description of the personal and professional strengths you will bring to this experience
- Your personal style/philosophy of interaction with children/adolescents
- Any previous experiences you have had with this population in the clinical/non-clinical setting
- The primary skills you hope to cultivate during your six months of clinical training

3. Resume

- Include specific information related to your practicum/clinical experiences (e.g. types of clients, sessions, facility, treatment goals, responsibilities, and number of direct clinical contact hours)

4. Transcripts from all college/university coursework

- Official transcripts preferred; internship director may request official transcripts during application process

5. Three letters of recommendation

- One letter of eligibility/verification from your academic advisor
- One letter of recommendation from a clinical supervisor
- One additional letter of recommendation
- Letters should be emailed as a signed PDF directly by the author to the internship director

6. A video introducing yourself and performing one song of your choosing, accompanied on the instrument of your choice

- Video must be submitted as an "Unlisted" YouTube link
- No other format will be accepted

ONLY COMPLETE APPLICATION PACKETS WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR REVIEW

Once all materials are received, the internship director will contact you regarding the status of your application

Applicant Name: _____

Music Therapy Internship Application



APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| ☐ Completed and signed application form/narrative essay | ☐ Emailed |
| ☐ Resume | ☐ Emailed |
| ☐ Transcripts from all college coursework | ☐ Emailed |
| ☐ Letter of eligibility/verification (academic advisor) | ☐ Emailed |
| ☐ Letter of recommendation (clinical supervisor) | ☐ Emailed |
| ☐ Additional letter of recommendation | ☐ Emailed |

Please check off that all materials are accounted for

Please initial the following:

_____ The information in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

_____ I understand that incomplete applications will not be eligible for review.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Desired internship start date: ☐ Winter/Spring ☐ Summer/Fall _____

(year)

First name: _____	Last name: _____	Preferred name: _____
Permanent address: _____		
City: _____	State: _____	Zip code: _____
Telephone: () - _____	Email address: _____	
Current address (if different than above): _____		
City: _____	State: _____	Zip code: _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Are you legally authorized to work in the U.S.? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you ever been convicted of a crime (*felony*)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, give details: _____

Music Therapy Internship Application



EDUCATION

What date will/did you complete your academic training? _____

College: _____ Degree: _____

College: _____ Degree: _____

Graduate School: _____ Degree: _____

List of instruments played with proficiency, including primary instrument:

Do you have any other skill(s) you wish to mention?

LETTER OF ELIGIBILITY/LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

1.	_____	_____	_____
	(Name: Academic Advisor)	(Occupation)	() - (Phone number)
2.	_____	_____	_____
	(Name: Clinical Supervisor)	(Occupation)	() - (Phone number)
3.	_____	_____	_____
	(Name: Additional)	(Occupation)	() - (Phone number)

****Note: there must be three separate letter submissions from three different people****

On the following pages, please type your **original narrative essay** describing why you are pursuing music therapy as a career. Please include the following information:

- Reasons for choosing this particular internship experience, and what your expectations are from both the internship director and this internship program
- A description of the personal and professional strengths you will bring to this experience
- Your personal style/philosophy of interaction with children/adolescents
- Any previous experiences you have had with this population in the clinical/non-clinical setting
- The primary skills you hope to cultivate during your six months of clinical training

****Your essay should not exceed the space allotted in this application (two pages)****

Music Therapy Internship Application



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