Texas Children's Hospital®

Child Life Department
Internship Application Instructions

To apply for the Texas Children's Hospital Internship Program, submit the **ACLP's Internship Readiness Common Application**. You can find information and detailed instructions on completing the application here.

Once the online application is complete, you may download the application and submit it via email to the desired campus for consideration:

- Medical Center Campus childlifeinternship@texaschildrens.org
- The Woodlands Campus: wlchildlife@texaschildrens.org
- North Austin Campus: atxncchildlife@texaschildrens.org

Please put your name, campus location and the internship session (Spring, Fall, or Summer) with the year in the subject line of the email.

Per hospital requirements, all applicants **must have an active university affiliation.** Candidates without university affiliation will not be considered at this time.

There is no other requirements or documentation needed for submission. Please review the following pages to learn more about our internship program at Texas Children's Hospital.

Texas Children's Hospital
Child Life Internship Program Information

Overview:

Texas Children's Hospital is the nation's largest, not-for-profit pediatric hospital with licensure for around 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 and women. Texas Children's Hospital collaborates with the Baylor College of Medicine to support a comprehensive pediatric medical education and research program.

The Child Life Program was established in 1975 to meet the unique developmental, social, emotional, and recreational needs of hospitalized children. Reporting directly to Patient and Family Services, program team members include: 3 managers, 40+ child life specialists, 10 activity coordinators, 4 music therapists, 2 art therapists, 5 animal assisted therapy coordinators, 2 media producers, 1 gaming activity coordinator, 4 school coordinators, 2 children's library coordinators, and an administrative secretary.

Child Life Specialists serve as members of interdisciplinary teams in the following patient care areas at Texas Children's Hospital: Pediatric ICU, Transitional ICU, Orthopedics, Endocrine, General Medicine/Transplant, Surgery, Cardiology, Pulmonary, Neurology, Hematology/Oncology, Nephrology, Pediatric Dialysis, Outpatient Clinical Care, Radiology, Emergency Center, Infant Care areas, Premature Nursery, Neonatal ICU, and Women's services. Child Life Specialists in all areas of the hospital utilize therapeutic play to promote growth and development, education, and coping skills of pediatric patients.

Program Description:

The Texas Children's Hospital Child Life Clinical Internship is a 640 hour, 16 week accredited program through the Association of Child Life Professionals. It is the philosophy of the Child Life Program to seek the most highly motivated and highly qualified intern candidates. One of the goals of the program is to assist candidates in their preparation for entry into an extremely competitive job market. Entrance requirements and internship content are strictly based on the Association of Child Life Professional's **Standards of Academic and Clinical Preparation Programs in Child Life**, **Child Life Competencies** and on current **Child Life Certification Committee** recommendations. Interns who successfully complete this educational program will have been provided the necessary experiences that establish and/or enhance 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 Texas Children's Hospital. Housing, transportation, parking expenses, meals, and medical insurance are the responsibility of the intern. For information about scholarship opportunities through the Association of Child Life Professionals, please visit https://www.childlife.org/the-child-life-profession/scholarships.

It is highly recommended for individuals to apply for internships at several different hospitals in order to assess differences in facilities, child life programming, internship content and structure.

Texas Children's Hospital Child Life Department has signed and fully supports the ACLP pledge for internship equity and access.

I. Entrance Requirements

The following minimum entrance requirements are consistent with national standards endorsed by the professional organization for child life specialists - The Association of Child Life Professionals.

A. Completed or currently obtaining a Bachelor's or Master's Degree. Per hospital requirements, all applicants must be university affiliated.

B. Successfully completed child life coursework inclusive of the 6 applied areas of study, as required by the ACLP

D. Documentation of at least two relevant experiences including the knowledge, skills and abilities (KSAs) defined by the ACLP.

E. Ability to commit to child life internship. Texas Children's Hospital offers a 640-hour, 16-week, full-time internship. Work hours vary depending upon the needs of the patients in each unit. This schedule may vary due to child life staffing and other considerations. Alternative scheduling options can be discussed on a case-by-case basis.

G. Ability to pass a mandatory health screening and background check according to Texas Children's Hospital policy.

II. The Application Process

Individuals meeting the minimum entrance requirements may submit an application to the Child Life Internship Coordinators. To apply for the Texas Children's Hospital internship program, visit the ACLP application portal and submit requirements for the Internship Readiness Common Application. Once this is complete, you may send the application to your intended campus(es) with your name, the internship session (Spring, Fall, or Summer) and year you are applying for in the subject line of the email.

III. Application Deadlines

Texas Children's Hospital offers child life internships three times per year. We follow the internship offer and acceptance deadlines recommended by the Association of Child Life Professionals. Applicants are responsible for meeting the following application deadlines. Please refer to the ACLP website for specific dates.

Internship Session	Application Deadline	Initial Offer Date	Acceptance Date
Winter/Spring 2027	September 4, 2026	October 6, 2026	October 7, 2026
Summer 2027	January 8, 2027 (Friday)	February 17, 2027 (Wednesday)	February 18, 2027 (Thursday)
Fall 2027	March 12, 2027 (Friday)	May 5, 2027 (Wednesday)	May 6, 2027 (Thursday)
Winter/Spring 2028	August 27, 2027 (Friday)	October 6, 2027 (Wednesday)	October 7, 2027 (Thursday)

IV. Intern Selection Process

A. Selection of child life interns is highly competitive. As recommended by the Association of Child Life Professionals, the following criteria heavily influence intern selection:

- 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
- Performance during supervised clinical field experience
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Professionalism in communication and correspondence

B. After the application deadline passes, the Child Life Internship Programming Team will review all complete applications. Applicants meeting and/or exceeding minimum entrance requirements may be contacted to schedule an interview. Our interview process is as follows: one phone screen interview and one or two rounds of video and/or in-person interviews conducted by the Child Life Internship Programming Team.

C. All applicants submitting complete applications will be notified in writing, via email, of their status in the intern selection process.

V. The Internship Experience

A. Upon official acceptance to the Internship Program, a written contract will be mutually agreed upon and signed by the intern, the child life internship coordinators, and the student's advisor (if applicable). Hours of attendance, duration of placement, and work responsibilities will be defined in this agreement. Prior to starting the internship, interns will receive, by email, general information regarding dress code, necessary items, parking, and orientation schedule. Interns will be held to the same high standards as Texas 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.

B. Upon official acceptance as a child life intern and prior to beginning the internship, the individual must obtain and read the following:

- R.H. Thompson & G. Stanford (1981*), Child Life in Hospitals: Theory and Practice*
- Laidley (Eds., 1998), *Psychosocial Care of Children in Hospitals: A Clinical Practice Manual from the ACCH Child Life Research Project*
  - Child Life Certifying Committee's *Professional Code of Conduct* (online) - https://www.childlife.org/docs/default-source/about-aclp/aclp-professional-code-of-conduct.pdf

Books can be ordered directly from *www.childlife.org*.

C. The internship is composed of two main rotations in complimentary units/areas and a specialty rotation (all under the direct supervision of Certified Child Life Specialists). The structure and duration of these rotations will be discussed prior to the beginning of the internship.

VI. Questions:

If you have any questions about the child life internship at Texas Children's Hospital, please email childlifeinternship@texaschildrens.org or the internship coordinators using the contact information listed below.

Internship Coordinators:

- *Chandler Townsend, MS, CCLS cdtownse@texaschildrens.org*
- *Olivia Priolo, MS, CCLS ompriolo@texaschildrens.org*