

Child Life Practicum

Applications must be submitted by email to childlifestudents@helendevoschildrens.org

Thank you for your interest in the Child Life Practicum Program at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. The application and recommendation forms below are Adobe Pro PDF documents. Open the forms within your browser, save them to your computer and edit them with the type tools or typewriter tools of Acrobat Reader. You may also complete forms by hand, scan, and email the documents.

A completed application contains the following:

- Helen DeVos Children's Hospital Child Life Practicum Program Application (pages 3 and 4 of this document)
- Two completed recommendation forms. Recommendation forms must be emailed to us directly from the recommender's email address. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide recommenders with the link to the form, located [here](#). Recommendations must come from a professional who has directly observed and can speak about your work experience with children
- ACLP Verification of Related Experiences form of a minimum of 50 hours of volunteer experience working with pediatric patients in a hospital setting
- Cover letter and resume
- All academic transcripts. Unofficial transcripts are acceptable. (minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA required)
- Five classes acceptable for Child Life certification requirements

Important Program Information

- Students who complete a Child Life Practicum at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital are eligible for our Child Life Internship.
- Students applying for the Child Life Practicum must be seriously interested in the profession with the intention of pursuing a Child Life Internship.

Practicum dates and deadlines

These deadlines are recommended by the ACLP.

Winter/Spring Practicum: January to March

- Application deadline: September 5th
- Initial Offer: Second Tuesday of October
- Acceptance from student: Second Wednesday of October

Fall Practicum: September to November

- Application deadline: March 15th
- Initial Offer: First Tuesday in May
- Acceptance from students: Following Wednesday of the initial offer date

Eligibility:

- Our practicum is open to students with or without a university affiliation.

Practicum Overview:

The child life practicum at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital offers students:

- Supervised observational experience with patients and families in a pediatric health care setting under the direct supervision of a Certified Child Life Specialist.
- Opportunities to observe patients in order to gain a understanding of the professional skills necessary to provide Child Life Services for a variety of ages, populations and diagnoses.
- An understanding of the philosophies and goals of Child Life Services.
- Exposure to the psychological impact of medical experiences on children and families.
- Opportunities to observe a wide range of educational and developmentally appropriate activities.
- Opportunities to gain understanding of the child life profession through written assignments, discussions, and readings.

Practicum placement includes:

- 8 weeks (3 days per week), with rotations in different patient care areas.
- Potential rotations include: inpatient general pediatrics, radiology, emergency, NICU and outpatient clinics

Practicum placement will require the purchase of:

- Uniform shirt with black pants to comply with Spectrum Health's dress code policy.

Child Life Practicum Application

Applicant Information

Contact Information

Name: _____

Primary Email: _____

Primary Phone number: _____

Other phone number (optional): _____

Primary Address

Other Address (optional):

Education

College / University: _____

Major(s): _____

Minor(s): _____

Academic Credit – fill out this section **ONLY** if you will receive school credit

Number of hours you need: _____

Number of school credits you will receive: _____

Academic Advisor / Supervisor

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Child Life Practicum Program Application

Application Questions

Please include typed answers to the following questions:

1. What interests you most about the child life profession?
2. Please discuss two of the most significant experiences you have had working with children (positive or negative).
3. What steps are you planning to take to work toward becoming a Child Life Specialist?

College Course Work

Please enter the class title and grade received for 5 classes relevant to Child Life. Classes listed should be acceptable for use toward certification as required by the Association of Child Life Professionals. Some examples include: child development, psychology, therapeutic recreation (see CLC website www.childlife.org for more information on accepted courses).

- The five courses you list below must have a grade equivalent to 80% (B-) or above and appear on your transcripts.

Course number (as listed on transcript) and course name	Grade earned
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	