

Child Life Practicum Program

The child life practicum provides introductory experiences aiding the students' development towards becoming a Certified Child Life Specialist. We use the [Texas Association of Child Life Professionals](#) (TACL) Common Practicum Application and Reference Forms.

Practicum Program Goals and Objectives

- To gain an introduction to the child life profession in general and to become acquainted with the Child, Adolescent and Young Adult Life Program at The University of Texas MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital.
- To have the opportunity to observe interactions with patients on a one-to-one basis and in group situations.
- To experience an accepting, non-threatening environment to promote healthy interactions between child, staff, and family.
- To gain an initial acquaintance with the needs of hospitalized children and to observe creative and flexible programming in meeting these needs.
- To observe advocacy for children and families in their interaction with the health care system.
- To see children prepared for medical experiences through the use of medical equipment and play.

Potential Observational Experiences

Medical Play: Individual and group play experiences centered around a patient's hospitalization.

Preparation: Individual teaching and play experience provided to patients regarding specific medical treatments and procedures.

Coping and Distraction: Techniques and activities offered to patients and families during hospitalization and specific medical experiences to assist with comfort and control.

Therapeutic and Recreational Play: Programming for normalization offered to patients and siblings throughout hospitalization.

Overview of the Practicum Program

- At this time, we offer fall and spring practicum rotations
- Rotations will be held at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital
- The practicum is 150+ hours over the course of 10 weeks with an inpatient and outpatient rotation.
 - Availability is Monday - Friday, with a part-time schedule of two to three days a week.
- The practicum is observation-based with hands-on therapeutic activities
 - Students will attend student group sessions on a variety of child life topics, as well as completing weekly readings, journals, and assignments
- Students are assigned two primary Certified Child Life Specialists who will serve as their supervisor during each rotation. Students will have the opportunity to observe many members of the support services program including child life specialists and child life assistants.
- Our practicum placement offers no stipend. Housing, transportation, meals and medical insurance are the sole responsibility of the student.

Applicant Requirements

- Completed [Application](#) (including resume & unofficial transcripts) and 2 [Reference Forms](#) must be submitted to ChildLife_Students@mdanderson.org by the session due date.
- A minimum of 50 hours of volunteer or paid experience with children
- GPA of at least 3.0
- If the child life practicum is for academic credit or the fulfillment of any academic requirements, it is the applicant's responsibility to verify the child life practicum at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital fulfills the expectations of the academic program. If you are unsure, please email ChildLife_Students@mdanderson.org for clarification.

Application Deadlines

CL Practicum Session	Application Due	Initial Offer Date	Student Must Accept Position By	2 nd Offer Date
Winter/Spring	September 19	4 th Tuesday of October	the following Wednesday	the following Thursday
Summer	January 19	4 th Tuesday of February	the following Wednesday	the following Thursday
Fall	March 29	3 rd Tuesday of May	the following Wednesday	the following Thursday