

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in our child life internship program. This packet is designed to give you a comprehensive overview of our Child Life department, internship expectations, and commonly asked questions. Our goal is to help you determine whether our program aligns with your learning style and professional goals as a student. We take great care in selecting students who are the best fit for our program's structure and size, ensuring a meaningful and supportive experience for everyone involved.

About the Child Life Department

- Oldest Child Life program in Texas and celebrated 50 years in 2024
- Among the largest Child Life programs in the country (66 CLS at Dallas)
- The child life department includes child life specialists, child life assistants, music therapists, a technology specialist, adaptive care program, and facility dogs
- There are 6 playrooms hospital wide and a therapeutic arts room at Dallas
- The child life department helps support programming and special visitors through the Seacrest Studios, which is an in-house radio/broadcasting station

Overview of the Internship

- Children's Health's clinical internship program has met the minimum standards for a clinical internship program set forth by the Association of Child Life Professionals (ACLP)
- We offer internship opportunities in the fall, spring, and summer
- All rotations are at the Children's Medical Center Dallas campus
- The internship is 600+ hours, 15 weeks long, 5 days a week, with 2 main rotation placements that are each six weeks long, and then with an additional 1-week rotation placement of choice.
- The internship consists of active learning student group sessions as well as other readings, assignments, and simulation labs throughout which include the ACLP Internship Modules.
- Large assignments include: small case presentations, a diagnosis presentation and a project.
- There is a designated site visit week for interns to explore other child life programs in the Dallas/Fort Worth area as well as other areas within the health system.
- The interns will work a designated holiday each semester (Easter, July 4th, or Halloween)

Application Overview

- There is **no fee** to apply or participate in our internship program.
- We use the **Association of Child Life Professionals (ACLP)** Common Application

Application Details

- To access the official application and required documents, please visit www.childrens.com and search **“Child Life Internship.”**
- Application deadlines follow the **Association of Child Life Professionals (ACLP)** internship timeline: [Clinical Internship](#)
 - **Summer 2026:** January 9, 2026
 - **Fall 2026:** March 13, 2026
 - **Spring 2027:** September 4, 2026
- Applicants must be **currently affiliated with a university** at the time of application and throughout the practicum.
 - *Note: We are unable to establish new university affiliations currently. Please refer to our website for a list of current partner schools.*
- Applicants must have at least two experiences with children, with one being with children in a healthcare setting and one being with children outside of a healthcare setting. There is no minimum hour requirement for these experiences.
- Applicants must have completed an ACLP Eligibility Assessment showing all 10 required courses by ACLP accepted.
 - *Note: Required courses can be in progress at the time of the internship application but must be completed by the start of the internship.*
- Unofficial Transcripts from all Universities attended must be included

Application Deadlines:

Children’s Health follows the recommended application deadlines and offer dates as set by the Association of Child Life Professionals and listed below:

Practicum/Pre-internship Session	Application Deadlines	Initial Offer Dates	Acceptance Dates
Summer 2026	January 9, 2026	February 17, 2026	February 18, 2026
Fall 2026	March 13, 2026	May 5, 2026	May 6, 2026
Winter/Spring 2027	September 4, 2026	October 6, 2026	October 7, 2026

Your application will not be reviewed if:

- It is incomplete
- It is received later than the required deadline date as listed below
- You fail to meet one of the requirements listed above (affiliation, eligibility assessment, experience with children and/or incomplete coursework)
- The applicant is not and will not be affiliated with a university on the list on our website that we currently have an affiliation.
- Additional items are included other than what is required for the application
- All submitted documents are not merged into one document
- Please do not put photos on your resumes or documents

Application Review:

- **Initial Review:** Applications are first reviewed by the Education Coordinator to ensure they are complete and meet the basic eligibility requirements.
- **Committee Review:** Applications that meet the criteria are then thoughtfully read by members of the student programming committee, using a consistent review guide.
- **Next Steps:** All applicants who advance in the process will receive an email outlining the next steps. Depending on the semester, this may include either a brief phone conversation or an invitation to participate in a formal interview.
- **Interview Invitations:** Based on the phone conversations and application materials, the student programming committee and Education Coordinator will invite up to 12 applicants to participate in the formal interview process.
- **Offer Timeline:** After interviews are completed, offers will be extended according to the dates and process outlined in the chart above.
- **Feedback Opportunity:** Applicants who do not receive an offer are welcome to reach out to the Education Coordinator to request feedback and guidance for future opportunities.

Interview Process: multi-mini interviews (MMI)

- **Interview Format:** Children's Health uses a Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) format.
- **Scheduling:** Interviews are held from one to two weeks before the offer date. Annual interview dates are posted on the website each January, giving candidates plenty of time to plan ahead.
- **Interview Style:** All interviews take place virtually on the scheduled date listed on the website.
- **Time Slot Selection:** Candidates may choose either a morning or afternoon time slot on the interview day.
- **Group Size:** Each time slot includes up to six candidates.
- **Interview Experience:** Candidates will rotate through a series of virtual rooms, participating in short, timed conversations with members of the intern committee. The session wraps up with a virtual tour and program overview led by the Education Coordinator, followed by a Q&A with the programming committee.
- **Interview Topics:** Questions will focus on child development and theory, experience working with children in various settings, teamwork, problem-solving, and scenario-based situations.
- **Pre-Interview Information:** A detailed email will be sent to candidates ahead of their interview date, outlining instructions and what to expect during the session.
- **Selection Process:** Candidates will be reviewed using a consistent set of guidelines. Offers will be extended to those who best align with the goals and values of the program.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **Can I still apply for an internship if I already have a degree?** Yes, but you must be affiliated (enrolled) with a university.
- **I will graduate before the internship starts, so I will not be affiliated with a university. Is this, okay?** No, all candidates must be affiliated.
- **I want to do my practicum or pre-internship experience at Children's, but will I still be eligible for an internship at Children's?** Yes! At this time, students can complete both their practicum/pre-internship experience *and* an internship at Children's Health, Dallas.
- **I am interested in gaining more volunteer experience, what can I do?** We recommend volunteering at camps, day care centers, children's hospitals, babysitting, and other roles that allow you to work with children of varying ages and developmental stages.

Application check list:

- ☐ Completed online application which includes:
 - Completing all 3 parts of the ACLP internship readiness common application (the application, uploading unofficial transcripts, uploading the eligibility assessment)
 - All documents must be merged into **one** document
- ☐ Download the application into a PDF
- ☐ Submit PDF application via email to internshipapplications@childrens.com

Again, we thank you for your interest in our internship, and wish you nothing but the best of luck on this journey to becoming a Certified Child Life Specialist!

Best,
Lizzy Peterson, MA, CCLS
Program Coordinator - Education

For more information or additional questions, contact:

Lizzy Peterson, MA, CCLS, Program Coordinator - Education
lizzy.peterson@childrens.com 214-456-5770

Visit websites for current and updated information
www.childlife.org and www.childrens.com