



## Practicum Description and Application

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in our child life practicum. Three times a year we offer a 100 hour, entry-level training in the Child Life Program. The training is intended to introduce the undergraduate student to child life as well as the variety of experiences facing child and adolescents in a healthcare setting. A certified child life specialist (CCLS) will supervise the student as he or she participates in individual and group activities with children and families.

The practicum student is widely exposed to the child life profession through observation and supervised participation. This exposure is designed to prepare the student for a more intensive career oriented training experience in child life.

<b>Application submission deadlines are as follows:</b>	
<b><u>Training Dates</u></b>	<b><u>Application Deadline</u></b>
January	November 13th
May/June	March 9th
September	June 4th

### Requirements:

- 50 hours of volunteer work with a Child Life Program
- Intro to Child Life course
- Core curriculum, including child development course work
- Successful experiences working with children and families
- Affiliation/enrollment in an academic program. We are unable to accept independent students.

### Program Objectives:

Through observation, collaboration with various child life staff, active participating in child life programming, and ongoing supervision and feedback, the practicum student will:

- Become familiar with the child life profession
- Recognize various child, adolescent and family member reactions to stress, illness, and pain
- Develop communication skills with children, adolescents, and family members in the healthcare setting
- Recognize the value of play and psychosocially supportive interventions

- Develop abilities to interact with members of the interdisciplinary team
- Evaluate own performance and set goals for learning
- Identify ways to integrate knowledge with practice

**Expectations:**

If the student's academic program/supervisor does not specify practicum requirements, the following guidelines will be used. IF the academic site identifies similar or very different tasks, guidelines will be adjusted accordingly.

1. Written goals for practicum experience
2. Observation and supervised participation in inpatient and outpatient program areas
3. Weekly journal or evaluation of experience, including discussion with site supervisor

**Student must be enrolled in an academic program; we do not accept independent students**

In order to be considered for placement, you must submit a completed application along with:

1. Resume and cover letter
2. A 200-500 word essay describing your philosophy of child life and how you propose that a practicum experience will contribute to your professional goals
3. List of (minimum 5) personal/professional goals for the training experience at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital.
4. Most recent unofficial academic transcript.
5. One letter of recommendation from someone who has observed your work with children
6. Description of academic requirements and the role of the university supervisor (i.e. letter from practicum supervisor and list of academic requirements for placement)

**Only complete applications will be considered. Student must be enrolled in an academic program; we do not accept independent students**

Application packets should be sent to Child Life Student Program, Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital,  
750 E. Adams St, Syracuse NY 13210.