

General Site Information

Opened in its current location in 2009, Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital (UGCH) is a 71-bed inpatient pediatric hospital within the 450-bed SUNY Upstate Medical University Hospital—Downtown Campus. As the regional children's hospital, UGCH provides emergency and acute medical care services to children from more than 17 counties in the Upstate New York Region. UGCH is certified as a level-1 pediatric trauma center through the American College of Surgeons.

UGCH includes 4 units: Surgery, Hematology/Oncology,

General Pediatrics, and Intensive Care (PICU). Pediatric patients may also be admitted to the Adult Acute Rehabilitation Unit for long-term physical rehabilitation needs. UGCH does not currently include inpatient psychiatric care beyond patients on a safety hold who are awaiting long-term placement, but may in the near future. SUNY Upstate Medical University is a fully accredited medical school, and UGCH/Upstate Medical University provides training/internship opportunities for students in many disciplines, including: medicine, nursing, respiratory therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, recreation therapy, speech therapy, social work, marriage & family therapy, and Child Life.



Music Therapy at UGCH

The music therapy program at UGCH is housed within the Child Life Program, overseen by the Child Life Manager, who reports to the Nursing Director for Pediatric Services. The music therapy program at UGCH integrates aspects of behavioral, biomedical, cognitive, developmental, interpersonal, improvisational, medical, and neurologic models of music therapy. The music therapist has additional training in Neurologic Music Therapy in addition to training in the Trauma Resiliency Model through the Trauma Resource Institute. Music therapy services may be provided to any patient admitted to a pediatric service; the music therapist is responsible for prioritizing patients according to identified psychosocial needs. Typically, music therapy sessions are provided 1:1 for pediatric inpatients at bedside; the music therapist also provides one group per month for the inpatient units, in addition to 2 groups per month in the outpatient pediatric Cancer Center Clinic. Patients seen by the music therapist typically experience hospitalizations longer than 3-5 days, have chronic medical conditions requiring frequent admissions, have experienced an acute injury or neurological event, or have developmental differences that make it difficult to cope with hospitalization. For more information, please see: <http://www.upstate.edu/gch/kids/childlife/childlifeservices/music.php>

Baseline Competencies of Music Therapy Intern

The successful internship applicant will have strong interpersonal and written communication skills, clinical experience working with young children and adolescents, preliminary understanding of child development and impact of hospitalization, and strong music competency and improvisation skills with voice and guitar, in addition to basic-intermediate skills with at least one additional instrument (ukulele, keyboard/piano, autoharp, hand drums, etc.). Strong music competency with guitar includes: playing at minimum I-iii-IV-V-vi in C, D, and G; using a capo to play 3-4 chords songs in E-flat and B-flat; varied strum patterns in 2, 3, and 4 beat patterns; transposing a simple (I-IV-V) chord progression on-sight; and playing and singing at least 5 familiar children's songs (of intern's choice) in C, D, and G. These skills will be evaluated via application materials and video interview. Prior clinical or volunteer experiences in a medical setting are recommended/preferred, but not necessary.

Music Therapy Internship Experience & Expectations

Interns at UGCH will be expected to work 40 hours per week according to the music therapist's schedule: Monday-Friday 9-5:30. A half-hour break for lunch is provided daily. The intern will work closely with the music therapist, attend interdisciplinary team meetings, plan sessions, implement sessions for individuals and small groups, and complete documentation for sessions using the clinician-developed note format in the patient's electronic medical record (EMR). The music therapy intern will also collaborate with the art therapist; Child Life Specialists; doctors; nurses; pediatric psychologist; physical, occupational, and speech therapists; and social workers to provide comprehensive psychosocial care. Interns may also have the opportunity for supervised experiences in select areas of the hospital that serve adult patients, depending on identified institutional needs and the interest/skills of the individual intern. Interns will be expected to complete an internship project that incorporates their own interests and skills with the current needs of the music therapy program (i.e. research proposal, clinical pilot project, program proposal, etc.). Interns will also be encouraged to attend Medical Grand Rounds, Nursing Grand Rounds, Child Life Journal Club, Child Life Council Webinars, meetings with local music therapists, and Mid-Atlantic Regional and AMTA National Conference, according to the intern's interests. A range of musical and academic resources are available to interns, including our Medical University research library and staff, a large instrument collection, and opportunity to request additional materials (both music instruments and extra-musical materials) within the music therapy program budget.

Legal/Administrative Requirements

Students' academic programs must enter into a contract with our legal department. Contracts include a requirement for liability insurance; if a student's academic program does not provide liability insurance for the student, the student will need to purchase their own, as specified in the contract. Once a contract is complete, the intern will be responsible for completing a health assessment including vaccination titers (for Rubella, Rubeola, and Varicella) and 2-step TB test (see <http://www.upstate.edu/health/forms.php>). An intern's physician or health care provider must sign the Certificate of Health, but the TB test and titers may be completed at SUNY Upstate's Employee/Student Health office at no cost to the intern. A tetanus/diphtheria vaccine is recommended within 10 years, but not required—this can also be obtained at no cost on-site. Per NYS Health Department, interns must receive the flu vaccination (provided free of charge by the hospital) or wear an isolation mask for the duration of flu season. Interns will also be required to complete training modules in EPIC (electronic medical record), Vocera (communication device), and HIPAA (confidentiality) during their internship hours.

Other Information

A \$3000 stipend is available for music therapy interns to help offset costs; the stipend will be paid in two equal increments, once at 3 months and once at completion of the internship. Housing is not provided, but temporary housing options in the area are numerous, due to proximity of the hospital to Syracuse University—some buildings/complexes offer shuttle service to the campus/hospital and/or may be on a bus route. Orange Housing has been recommended by past Child Life Interns as a resource for finding housing: <https://www.orangehousing.com/>. Paid parking (garage or shuttle lot) is available for interns, see <http://www.upstate.edu/parking/student/commuter-options.php>. Meals are not provided, but are available for purchase in the hospital cafeteria or from many local establishments within walking distance, see <http://university-hill.com/whats-on-the-hill/business-districts-commerce/crouse-marshall-business-district/>. Interns who choose to bring their lunch will have access to a shared refrigerator and microwave.