



Dear Child Life Intern Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in Ochsner Children's Hospital Child Life Internship Program. This internship packet will outline the details of our hospital, department, and internship program.

The internship is a full-time, 600-hour program. Students will have potential rotations on the Pediatric Acute Unit, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit, Surgery Centers, Outpatient Clinics, Radiology, Emergency Department, and other areas that receive child life coverage based on staffing availability. Supervision is provided by experienced Certified Child Life Specialists, who strive to assist students as they apply theory to practice.

Our child life internship provides clinical development throughout a systematic learning experience centered on child life competencies. The child life intern, with the guidance and supervision of Certified Child Life Specialists, participates in the creation and implementation of educational, therapeutic, and developmental activities based on child development. The intern will also be provided with opportunities to build independence in developing assessments and providing appropriate interventions. Our internship program and modules are consistent with the recommendations from the Association of Child Life Professionals.

All application materials must be submitted by the application due date as determined by the ACLP. Incomplete or Late applications will not be considered.

Please send completed applications to the following email address: childlifeinternship@ochsner.org

Application must contain all of the following to be considered complete:

- Association of Child Life Professionals' Internship Readiness Common Application
 - <https://www.childlife.org/docs/default-source/about-aclp/internship-readiness-common-application-fillable-wc-pdf-june-2025.pdf>
- Transcripts from each university attended
 - Official OR Unofficial transcripts are accepted
- Completed Association of Child Life Professional Eligibility Assessment
 - Courses in progress that will be completed prior to the internship start date will be accepted
- Professional Resume detailing career objectives and experiences working with children
- Minimum 3.0 GPA
- Minimum 100 hours under supervision of a Certified Child Life Specialist
- Letter of Recommendation from someone who has directly observed your work with children submitted directly to childlifeinternship@ochsner.org

Thank you for your interest in our program. If you have any questions, please contact our internship committee at childlifeinternship@ochsner.org

Sincerely,

Child Life Internship Committee
Ochsner Children's Hospital



Ochsner Children's Hospital Mission, Vision, and Values:

- We serve, heal, lead, educate, and innovate.
- Inspiring healthier lives and stronger communities.
- Patients are always our first priority.
- Always act with integrity.
- Approach every experience with compassion.
- Inclusivity inspires us to do our best.
- Excellence is an ongoing journey.
- Teamwork makes us stronger.

Ochsner Children's Hospital Overview:

- Ochsner Children's Hospital has 70 pediatric inpatient beds which include general pediatrics, pediatric intensive care, and pediatric cardiovascular intensive care units.
- Patients range in age from newborns to patients in their 20s.
- Child Life Specialists provide coverage to other areas of the hospital and outpatient settings including surgery, radiology, pediatric emergency department, and our pediatric clinics, which include care in 30 pediatric advanced specialty areas.
- For the ninth year in a row, U.S. News & World Report has ranked Ochsner Children's Hospital among the Top 50 Children's Hospitals in the country. This year, Ochsner Children's Hospital ranked in cardiology & heart surgery and gastroenterology & GI surgery by U.S. News & World Report.
- For the fifth year in a row, U.S. News & World Report has ranked Ochsner Children's Hospital the Number 1 hospital for children in Louisiana.

Child Life Department Overview:

- Child Life Specialists work to minimize fears and stressors associated with procedures, hospitalization, and other psychosocial aspects of the patient's and family's care, creating a more productive environment for patients, families, and staff.
- Child Life Specialists seek to accomplish this by providing a multitude of services including: pre-procedural preparation, procedural support, medical and therapeutic play, education resources, coping techniques, surgery tours, sibling preparation and support, and bereavement support.
- As an intern, you will observe and interact with a skilled and innovative group of multidisciplinary healthcare professionals (physicians, nursing staff, social work, OTs, PTs, spiritual care, etc.) providing family centered care.

Ochsner Children's Hospital Child Life Program Goals:

- Decrease stress and anxiety associated with hospitals through play and preparation.
- Increase compliance and cooperation with medical staff.
- Coping for mastery (support and distraction provided for procedures as well as non-pharmacologic techniques for pain control)
- Increase family centered care
- Normalization of the healthcare environment
- Advocate for patient and family needs
- Procedural and hospital education



- Provide opportunities for play – medical, therapeutic, and age-appropriate
- Directly support the emotional and developmental needs of each patient and family

Application Review:

The internship coordinator and the internship committee will review all applications. Incomplete applications or applications not submitted by the Association of Child Life Professionals application deadline will not be considered. Selected qualified applicants will be contacted to schedule an interview and move forward in the selection process. The selected intern candidate will be notified of their acceptance into the program. Ochsner Children's Hospital Child Life Department follows the Association of Child Life Professionals' recommended offer dates. Applicants that are not selected for the program will receive notification by email.

Intern Schedule:

The intern must be willing to work a flexible, 40 hour per week schedule for 15-16 weeks. Interns will work various shifts including days, evenings, and potential weekends. The intern start date will be determined by the internship coordinator and the intern. Interns will rotate throughout two-three major rotations, with shadow days, orientations, in-services, and independent experiences built into the program.

Affiliation:

Ochsner Children's Hospital does not require our intern to be affiliated with a university during the internship experience.

- If the intern is completing the internship experience independently, the intern will be required to sign an agreement with Ochsner Children's Hospital.
- If the intern is completing the internship experience for school credit, an affiliation agreement must be made between the student's university and Ochsner Children's Hospital.

Living Arrangements:

Living arrangements are the responsibility of the intern. Additional housing information and guidance may be provided as necessary.

Uniforms:

The intern dress code includes Ochsner or Child Life-themed t shirts with colorful scrub pants and closed toe shoes. Interns are responsible for purchasing their own uniforms. More information will be provided after an internship offer has been accepted.

Requirements Upon Acceptance:

- Proof of negative TB test (within the last 12 months)
- Updated immunizations
- Flu vaccination
- COVID-19 vaccination
- Negative drug screen
- Clear criminal background check
- Current BLS certification (CPR and AED training)
- Signed internship agreement
- Proof of liability insurance (if not affiliated with a university)