

Dear extended internship applicant,

Thank you for your interest in our child life extended internship! In an effort to create a more diverse child life profession, representative of the patients and families we serve, we are committed to offer candidates who identify barriers in the field of child life an extended structured internship in order to increase accessibility to the profession. We value the effort you have put into pursuing a career as a Certified Child Life Specialist. We know there can be confusion regarding application requirements from program to program. We hope to streamline our new extended internship program information as much as possible.

This packet is designed to outline the extended internship application requirements. Please read it all the way through. Many of your questions are answered in this packet. Should you have additional questions or seek clarification, please email us directly at childlifestudents@cookchildrens.org

We recognize how important it is to find a program that is the right fit for you. Our Child Life department is large, with many Certified Child Life Specialists. Other department members are child life activity coordinators, Child Life Zone staff, music therapists, school teachers, therapeutic clowns, artists in residence, and the facility dogs in our Sit...Stay...PLAY program. Below you will find a brief overview of our program philosophy. We hope this helps you have a better understanding of our program.

Our philosophy

The child life program at Cook Children's strongly emphasizes balance between play and preparation. This balance is achieved through clinical practice. We are a "hands-on" department. Though we believe that we have a function in educating staff and advocating for children, the majority of our time is spent with the patients and families. We believe child life has a role in the changing health care environment and we are evolving in response to this. In addition to the traditional inpatient areas, we offer integrated services in the Emergency Department, Radiology, PICU, NICU, Special Procedures Unit, Urgent Care Clinics and most outpatient areas. We are team focused, both within our department and within our areas of coverage, and we see students as a part of that team. We believe that interns must practice what they have learned. Interns have many opportunities for both formal and informal learning, hands-on clinical practice, and collaboration with peers. All students are given opportunities for self-directed learning. We also help students identify and access resources within the Cook Children's Health Care System.

Child Life Extended Internship Program Information

- The Cook Children's child life extended internship was the first child life program in Texas to reimagine the internship process to help those who identify barriers in the field an opportunity to train to become a certified child life specialist.
- We choose to comply with the Association of Child Life Professionals Internship Learning Modules
- We choose to comply with the Association of Child Life Professionals Internship Readiness Common Application and requirements. The ACLP internship readiness common application can be uploaded into our online portal
- We offer comprehensive internship training in our extended internship program at this time once a year
- The child life extended internship is a 26 weeks/6 months part time training-3 days a week (days to be determined)
- Interns obtain approximately 620 hours of clinical experience

Applicant requirements

- College seniors, graduate students, or college graduates.
- Unaffiliated applicants are welcome.
- Individuals are **NOT** allowed to apply for both our traditional internship and our extended structured internship. You are only eligible to apply for one program at a time
- Must be individual who experiences barriers on the pathway to become a child life specialist and would benefit from an extended structured internship. ***Please indicate this clearly in your essay.***
- Cook Children's **DOES NOT** require extended internship applicants to have completed a child life practicum.
- Applicants must have experience with children and families in healthcare and outside of healthcare settings.
- Competence in past roles with children and families
- Demonstration of knowledge of child development and child life theory
- Required coursework must be completed and verified by ACLP Eligibility Assessment Report when you submit your application.
 - ***We will allow applicants to be in-progress with a required course at the time of applying. The applicant with have to submit a completed ACLP Eligibility Assessment Report prior to the start of internship to begin.***
- If the internship is for academic credit or the fulfillment of any academic requirements, it is the applicant's responsibility to verify the child life extended internship at Cook Children's fulfills the expectations of the academic program. If you are unsure, please talk with your academic advisor for clarification.
- We request and accept unofficial college transcripts through your ACLP internship readiness application

Explanation of application requirements

- Association of Child Life Professionals (ACLP) [Common Internship Readiness Application](#)
 - PLEASE NOTE WE USE THE UPDATED ACLP COMMON INTERNSHIP APPLICATION through the ACLP.
- Validation of all required coursework by [ACLP Eligibility Assessment Report](#)
 - Applicants from ACLP endorsed academic programs will not have individual classes on the Eligibility Assessment; however, you are still required to submit the Eligibility Assessment Report and the ACLP Endorsement Letter and course table provided by your academic program director.
- Essay
(Please submit a separate PDF document in the online application submission portal):
 - Please answer the follow questions with specific experience/s or example/s.
300 word limit:
 - Identify and describe the barriers you have experienced on the pathway to becoming a child life specialist.
 - How do you envision this internship personally impacting your child life path?
 - How will you use what you learn from this experience to create positive change in the healthcare setting?
- Electronic signature on the “Confidentiality Statement” available in the online submission portal
- Electronic signature of the Artificial Intelligence Accountability Form available in the online submission portal.
- For all academic transcripts, unofficial transcripts are acceptable. Please be sure your unofficial transcript contains your first and last name, as well as the name of the school. All academic transcripts must verify the accepted courses on the ACLP Eligibility Assessment.

Application submission

- We use an online application process
- The online application submission portal opens at 12:00pm (noon) Central time and specific dates are indicated on our website
- All documents must be submitted to the online application submission portal in PDF format
- Submitting a complete application does not guarantee an applicant an interview or internship placement; only the most qualified applicants will be invited to interview

Completed application details

- ACLP New Common Internship Readiness Application
- Essay *(Please submit a separate PDF document in the online application submission portal)*
- Confidentiality Agreement-Available in the online application submission portal
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) Agreement-Available in the online application submission portal
- ACLP Eligibility Assessment
- Unofficial academic transcript(s) verifying courses/program required by the ACLP Eligibility Assessment

Offer and Acceptance dates

Extended Internship Application, Offer and Acceptance Dates

Extended Internship Session	Deadline	Initial Offer Date	Acceptance Date
2025: January-June (3 days a week)	July 18 th , 2024 11:59 p.m. Central Standard Time	September 10 th , 2024 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Central Standard Time	September 11 th , 2024 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Central Standard Time

Interview Dates

All interviews are conducted via zoom.

- 2025 Extended Internship- Monday August 26th, 2024

We appreciate your interest in our program. Please note that due to the high volume of applications and limited capacity, we may be unable to accommodate requests to reschedule interview dates. We encourage all applicants to consider their availability before applying and notify us as soon as possible of any requests to reschedule interview dates.

Interview information

- After we review applications, we will **ONLY** have our interview process which is conducted virtually via Zoom. We do not do phone screenings prior to our zoom interviews
 - We use an interview format called Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI)
 - Typically, interviews are held the week before offers are made (Interview dates are listed on the Cook Children's child life internship webpage)
- Only the most qualified of the applicants will be offered interviews

Additional requirements for only those applicants who are accepted as child life interns –

Costs associated with each requirement are approximations

- Clear criminal background check
- American Heart Association Healthcare Provider BLS certification (\$65)
- Current negative TB test
- Proof of immunity (MMR, varicella, adult Tdap, Hepatitis B series, current influenza)
- Current negative drug screen (\$45)
- Current health insurance
- Proof of individual liability insurance or liability coverage by university (\$40)
- Signed individual educational experience agreement **or** a signed affiliation agreement between your university and Cook Children's

Application check-list – Reminder! All documents must be saved to your computer as PDFs before they can be submitted.

- Association of Child Life Professionals Common Application
- ESSAY- 300 word limit in PDF document
- Association of Child Life Professionals Eligibility Assessment Report
- Electronically signed Confidentiality Statement
- Electronically signed Artificial Intelligence Accountability Form
- All academic transcripts represented on the ACLP Eligibility Assessment (unofficial transcripts are accepted)

Submit all documents/information to the **online submission portal**: Child Life Extended Internship Application

If you have questions, please contact:

Debbie Wheeler, MS, CCLS
Child Life Education Coordinator

ChildLifeStudents@cookchildrens.org
Email is the preferred method of communication

682-885-4740