



Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the practicum experience within the Child Life program at UC Irvine Health. The practicum experience under the Child Life program is designed to meet the needs and interests of students, who plan to pursue a career in child life. Students will receive various practical experiences and will be supervised by a Certified Child Life Specialist.

The students are required to commit to a minimum of 100 hours to be completed in a 10 week academic quarter or 120 hours to be completed in 12 weeks during an academic semester. We use the UCI quarter schedule for developing our schedule of hours. Hours will be completed in various settings from the in-patient hospital setting, out-patient clinic and program or community events.

The Child Life Program at UC Irvine Health consists of 2 full time Child Life Specialists. One full time specialist is dedicated to the medical center, which covers in-patient, outpatient burn clinic and surgical areas. The other Child Life Specialist works at the Beckman Laser Clinic on the UC Irvine campus, as well as the Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders. Children served by the medical center are seen primarily for trauma/burn related injuries, specialty surgeries, NICU and laser treatment.

If you are interested in applying for our practicum program please review the application packet for requirements to apply and an overview of the schedule. Completed applications can be mailed or emailed to the address listed below.

At this time, we are unable to offer a stipend or assist financially with housing. If you have any additional questions after your review the application packet, please email me at [childlife@hs.uci.edu](mailto:childlife@hs.uci.edu).

Sincerely,

*Erica Magnuson*

**Erica Magnuson, Child Life Specialist II**  
**Adult Critical Care Services**

UC Irvine Health  
101 The City Drive S., Bldg 53 RM 105A | Orange, CA 92868  
[childlife@hs.uci.edu](mailto:childlife@hs.uci.edu).



### Child Life Practicum Experience Deadlines

	Application deadline	Notification of offer*	Practicum Begins
WINTER	September 30	October	January
SPRING	December 1	January	March
FALL	June 15	August	September

### APPLICATION CHECKLIST

**Pre-requisite:**

- Minimum of 100 hours of experience working/volunteering with children and adolescents
- Enrolled in undergraduate or graduate level academic program
- Completed 8 classes in child development/psychology/child life

**Requirements: All documents should be complete when submitted**

- UCI Child Life Program Application
- University/College Unofficial Transcript (Undergraduate and Graduate)
- A One Page Resume
- A One Page Cover Letter
- 1 Letter of Recommendation from academic staff
- 1 Letter of Recommendation from supervisor during your volunteer/work experience with children and adolescents
- Postmarked or Submitted according application deadline

All documents must be submitted together in one package or one email.

Partial, incomplete, multiple emails, emails not from the applicant or email’s containing links will be marked incomplete and will not be considered for our program.

Completed applications can be sent to:

[childlife@hs.uci.edu](mailto:childlife@hs.uci.edu) or Erica Magnuson  
 Child Life Program  
 101 The City Dr. Bldg. 53 rm. 105A  
 Orange, CA 92868

**Requirements for selected Applicants**

- Health Clearance
- Background Check Clearance
- Badge and Student Volunteer Uniform
- General Volunteer Orientation
- Child Life Orientation/Training
- Student Orientation



## GOALS & OBJECTIVES OF PRACTICUM/FIELDWORK

**Premise:** Students can benefit from a comprehensive, practical experience in the field of Child Life, thus building and enhancing skills required to work with or advocate for a Child in a healthcare environment.

**Purpose:** To acquaint students with the profession of Child Life and other medical professions; to introduce and familiarize students with the role of Child Life Specialists at UCIMC; to give students the opportunity to build skills and have successful experiences with children and families in a healthcare setting.

**Goal:** To gain practical experience and competence in the medical field and build skills in working with children and families in healthcare setting.

**Expectations:** Each student volunteer is expected to function as a part of the child life team, participating with other students, volunteers and professional staff. Each student is expected to give input into their personal program by defining goals and objectives for their experience. Each student is given assignments to broaden perception on hospitalized children and their families as well as reflective exercises and opportunities. Training within the healthcare system is learning to put into practice the philosophy and understanding of Child Life as well as healthcare field. Students are expected to enter the program with basic child development knowledge, strong work ethic and a clear desire to learn.

**Evaluation:** Student volunteers will be formally evaluated at the end of the practicum/fieldwork experience. Supervisors and interns will discuss the evaluations prior to the submission of forms to the respective schools or colleges. Intern evaluation is required and must be completed at the end of their evaluation. Informal evaluations will be done by both the intern and their supervisors throughout the practicum experience.



## GOALS & OBJECTIVES OF PRACTICUM EXPERIENCE

1. To become familiar with the Child Life profession in general, and specifically to learn the philosophy and structure of the Child Life program at UC Irvine Health.
2. To develop communication skills with children and families coming into contact with the healthcare system.
3. To understand the emotional and psychosocial needs of patients, siblings, and parents around illness, medical encounters, and hospitalization.
4. To increase awareness of and sensitivity to cultural, ethnic, religious, and other areas of individual differences.
5. To gain the ability to assess how anxiety and stress, related and non-related to the healthcare environment, can interfere with normal growth and development.
6. To gain ability to plan, organize, coordinate, implement, and evaluate playroom and bedside activities that provide optimal growth for the whole child.
7. To examine students' professional training and coursework strengths and limitations in light of the practical work situation.
8. To learn the role of students and volunteers in a Child Life program, including recruitment, training, and supervision.
9. To be able, at the end of the practicum, to transition from student to child life intern or professional.
10. To learn role of Child Life Specialist as part of the multidisciplinary team; advocacy for the child and family, interpersonal relationships with members of the team.
11. To develop an understanding of multidisciplinary team effort in effecting positive experiences for children and families in a healthcare setting.
12. To gain a professional attitude, growth, maturity and judgment.
13. To discover career objectives within many facet of the medical field.



### UC Irvine Health Child Life Practicum Program Overview

- Students may choose to complete 100 hours in 10 weeks or 120 hours in 12 weeks
- Students will be scheduled to work one eight hour shift a week on either **Mondays or Thursdays** at the Medical Center in Orange
- Additional hours will be completed at the Beckman Laser clinic in Irvine on occasional Wednesday or Friday mornings and through various child life program events, which may occur on weekends or evenings
- Students will have the opportunity to provide support in the hospital and out-patient clinics
- Students will have the opportunity to observe a Child Life Specialist provide interventions to various patients in various settings during several shifts
- Students will be required to complete written assignments to enhance their learning
- Students will be expected to meet with their supervisor to review goals in each area and discuss their progress
- Students will be required to make up any absences within three weeks of absence occurrence
- Students will be provided with opportunities to engage patients and siblings in 1:1 interactions and a group setting in the playroom and at bedside
- Students will have the opportunity to observe rounds or special committee meetings
- Students will have the opportunity to observe Child Life Specialist collaborate with other hospital staff
- Students will have the opportunity to attend educational events provided by the hospital or in the community



## Duties and Responsibilities of Child Life Practicum Student

- Provide activities to patients and siblings at bedside or in playroom
- Maintain working order of supplies and equipment
- Transport pediatric patients to and from the playroom
- Monitor the safety of all children under their supervision
- Communicate effectively with the child life specialist regarding any concerns related to the patient and their family
- Assist with infection control by following all cleaning guidelines
- Complete written assignments
- Maintain confidentiality
- Restocking and transporting of materials
- Being a mandated reporter
- Work effectively with staff and volunteers
- Provide excellent customer service
- Follow the mission statement of UC Irvine Health
- Represent the child life program to patients, families and staff



Child Life Program Application

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Term: \_\_\_Fall \_\_\_Summer \_\_\_Winter \_\_\_Spring Hours Circle one : 100/120  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_  
University: \_\_\_\_\_  
University Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Degree Sought: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of graduation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Relation \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. Explain your interest specifically in the UCI Medical Center Child Life Department:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2. List previous experience with children, both medical and non-medical. Please include total number of hours and how supervision was provided:

Dates	Institution	Supervisor Name and Title	Number of Hours completed	Direct Supervision (Yes/No)



3. What do you hope to learn and gain from this practicum experience?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What personal experiences do you have with hospitals and healthcare? What significance or impact does this have on your life today?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. How do you visualize Child Life Specialists spending their time in the hospital?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What qualities and skills do you possess that will help you in this practicum? What are areas you would like to develop?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. How do you build rapport with individual children and a group of children?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What is your typical reaction when you are overwhelmed by new experiences? What coping strategies do you utilize when transitioning to a new environment or experience?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Give an example of how you would modify an activity for two children of different stages of development?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. What population do you want to gain more experience with?