

INTERNSHIP ACCREDITATION PROCESS

The Association of Child Life Professionals defines the accreditation of clinical internships in child life as an assurance that a program meets the minimum standards and requirements set forth in the Standards for Academic and Clinical Preparation Programs in Child Life as found in the most current Official Documents of the Child Life Council as well as the Essential Curriculum Topics for Child Life Clinical Internships. Accreditation is a voluntary two-step process of self-study and external peer review intended to evaluate, enhance, and publicly recognize quality child life clinical internship programs. This process is intended to evaluate the extent to which a program meets the competencies defined by the essential internship curriculum topics and the practice analysis, and to promote the interests of students through continuous quality improvement of learning and professional practice.

What are the competencies that accredited program must meet?

- The program has an internship coordinator who has a minimum of 8000 hours of paid experience as a CCLS and has maintained his/her professional certification.
- The internship coordinator has weekly meetings with the interns and provides oversight and guidance to clinical rotation supervisors.
- The program follows the ACLP clinical internship offer and acceptance guidelines and ensures a systematic evaluation process of interns' progress.
- Each clinical rotation supervisor has at least 4000 hours of paid experience as a CCLS and maintains professional certification.
- The clinical rotation supervisor assumes responsibility for the student's educational development by only supervising one intern at a time, working at least 80% of the same hours as the intern in order to have daily contact with the intern, and having weekly meetings with the intern.
- The program only accepts interns who have had at least 100 hours of experience with well infants, children, youth, and/or families; 100 hours of experience with infants, children, youth, and/or families in stressful situations, health care settings, and/or programs designed for children with special needs; have successfully completed coursework inclusive of the 6 applied areas of study as required by the ACLP; and have completed the academic course work portion of the ACLP Eligibility Assessment.
- The program offers 600 hours of clinical experience spread over at least 2 rotations with one rotation supervisor that are at least 6 weeks (240 hours) in length.

What should interns get out of the program?

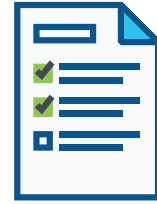
The program provides interns with a minimum of opportunities to gain education, skills, experience, and competency related to professional responsibility in the following areas:



**PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**



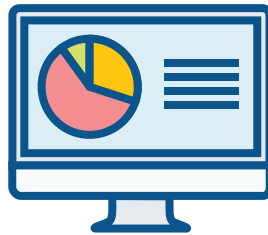
**PROFESSIONAL
RELATIONSHIPS**



DOCUMENTATION



EDUCATION



**ADMINISTRATIVE
RESPONSIBILITIES**



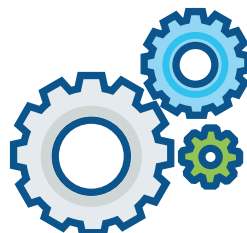
VOLUNTEERS

What should interns get out of the program?

The program provides interns with a minimum of opportunities to gain education, skills, experience, and competency related to assessment in the following areas:



STRESS POTENTIAL



**DEVELOPMENTAL
VARIABLES**



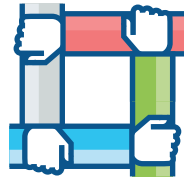
**PSYCHOSOCIAL
VARIABLES**

What should interns get out of the program?

The program provides interns with a minimum of opportunities to gain education, skills, experience, and competency related to clinical interventions in the following areas:



PLAY



SUPPORT



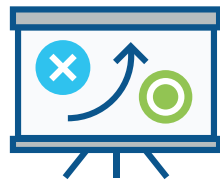
INTEGRATED AND/OR EXPRESSIVE THERAPIES



TECHNOLOGY



PALLIATIVE & END OF LIFE CARE



COPING STRATEGIES



ENVIRONMENT



SOCIAL INTERACTIONS



ADVOCACY



PATIENT & FAMILY EDUCATION & PREP



THERAPEUTIC RELATIONSHIPS



PATIENT & FAMILY CENTERED CARE

Benefits of Accreditation*

- It means that the hospitals' Child Life program meets the standards set by the ACLP. To me that means that they can potentially better prepare me to become a CCLS. It means that they follow all of the standards that the ACLP has set forth for internship requirements.
- Will provide quality education and set up for future success.
- It provides more validity to my internship.
- I tended to give internships who were accredited a little more of my attention. It didn't affect who I applied to but when I got several offers it was definitely a factor I considered when making my decision.

* Benefits of Accreditation gathered from a survey on the Students' Perspective.

Maintaining Accreditation

Programs must submit annual documentation that they are maintaining the standards submitted in their original application along with an accreditation maintenance fee. After 5 years, the program will go through a re-accreditation process.

Finding Accredited Programs

All accredited sites are listed on the ACLP website. Accredited sites may also advertise on their hospital/program websites and written materials by including the seal of accreditation.

