



**Nicklaus  
Children's  
Hospital**



## Child Life Department Internship Program Information & Application

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## Introduction

Founded in 1950 by Variety Clubs International, Nicklaus Children's Hospital is South Florida's only licensed specialty hospital exclusively for children, with approximately 800 attending physicians, including more than 500 pediatric subspecialists. The 309-bed hospital, known as Miami Children's Hospital from 1983 through 2014, is renowned for excellence in all aspects of pediatric medicine with many specialty programs routinely ranked among the best in the nation by U.S. News & World Report since 2008.

As part of the interdisciplinary clinical team at Nicklaus Children's Hospital, the Child Life program strives to create a positive and optimistic hospital experience through a therapeutic and expressive environment.

In accordance with this goal, the Child Life program's mission is to assess children's psychosocial and developmental needs in order to create an individualized plan of care through advocacy, education, and empowerment thereby normalizing the hospital environment and promoting best possible outcomes with a focus on family centered care.

The Child Life team consists of Certified Child Life Specialists who provide developmental, educational, therapeutic and expressive interventions for children and their families by establishing the most positive hospital experience achievable.

## Overview of Child Life Internship

**Internship Applicants:** Our child Life internship program accepts college/university affiliated students. All applicants affiliated with universities must have a senior level status at the time of internship. University affiliated postgraduate students should have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in accordance with **coursework suggested by the ACLP**

<http://www.childlife.org/Certification/CertificationEligibility/index.cfm>

### **Suggested Majors for Internship Candidates:**

Child Life, Child Development, Family and Human Development, Early Childhood Education, Special Education, Recreation Therapy, and Psychology.

- A. **Application:** A link to the common internship application is included in this packet. Please return the completed application along with an official copy of your university transcript, resume, Association of Child Life Professionals (ACLP) eligibility assessment verification, Child Life course verification, two letters of recommendation, and verification of completion of Child Life Practicum

- B. **Selection of Child Life Interns:** Determination is based on a variety of criteria that include: academics, previous experience working with children in or outside of the hospital setting, references, and an interview.
- C. **Acceptance:** Students will be notified of acceptance into the Internship program on or before the date specified in ACLP application deadline and acceptance guidelines found at: [www.childlife.org](http://www.childlife.org)
- D. **Internship Hours:** Child Life interns are required to complete 600 hours over 15 weeks (40 hours per week – this can be inclusive of days, nights, and weekends). The selected interns' schedule will follow the work hours of unit preceptor.  
\*\*Child Life coverage is provided at the hospital from Sunday-Saturday.
- E. **Housing Arrangements:** The hospital does not provide housing for Child Life Interns
- F. **Stipend:** No stipend is paid to Child Life Interns
- G. **Uniforms:** Interns must comply with Nicklaus Children's Hospital's employee dress code and the dress code of the Child Life Department.

## Internship Clinical Rotation Units Currently Available

Child Life interns will have the opportunity to observe child life services provided in 11 clinical areas at Nicklaus Children's Hospital.

Child Life interns will also complete two clinical rotations that are 6 weeks in length and one rotation that is 2 weeks in length from the patient care units currently open for students.

## Internship Application Deadlines and Information

Students interested in applying to a Child Life Internship Program should follow the standard internship deadline, offer, and acceptance dates created by the Association of Child Life Professionals (ACLP). [Internship Information \(childlife.org\)](http://childlife.org)

To find the required Common Internship Readiness Application form please visit:  
[Application Portal \(smapply.io\)](http://smapply.io)

Applications can be forwarded to:  
[childlifestudentprograms@nicklaushealth.org](mailto:childlifestudentprograms@nicklaushealth.org)

Once your application received and reviewed, you will be notified of a possible interview. We appreciate your interest in Nicklaus Children's Hospital Child Life internship. If you have any questions, please contact the Child Life Student Academic Coordinator at 786-624-5482.

This hospital fully complies with the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1968 and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibits employment discrimination based upon race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, physical disability or veteran status.

A Criminal Conviction record search is made of all prospective students of the hospital. A conviction record does not disqualify applicants from acceptance; factors such as age and time of offense, seriousness and nature of violation and rehabilitation will be taken into account. However, concealment of any conviction on this application shall be cause for disqualification.