



Department of Child Life, Creative Arts Therapy and  
School Programs  
Nemours Children's Hospital, Delaware  
1600 Rockland Road  
Wilmington, Delaware 19803  
[www.nemours.org/childlife](http://www.nemours.org/childlife)

## **Child Life Pre-Internship Program — Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q. What is a child life specialist? How do I pursue certification?**

A. Please visit the Association of Child Life Professionals for detailed information about child life certification. <http://www.childlife.org/child-life-profession>

**Q. Where is the Nemours Children's Hospital, Delaware located?**

A. Our address is: 1600 Rockland Road, Wilmington, DE 19803

**Q. How do I know if I'm eligible for a child life pre-internship or internship?**

A. Please visit our web page for application requirements for both practicum and internship programming.

**Q. How many students does your child life pre-internship accept?**

A. We currently take 1–2 child life pre-internship students per semester.

**Q. Do you accept matriculated and non-matriculated students?**

A. Yes, we accept students who are either enrolled or not enrolled in college. If students will be completing a pre-internship experience for course credit their school must have a current affiliation agreement with Nemours Children's Hospital, Delaware. Affiliation agreements may be arranged after acceptance into the program.

**Q. When are child life pre-internship applications due? How will I be notified if I am accepted?**

A. Application packets must be complete and emailed to [ChildLifeStudentPrograms@nemours.org](mailto:ChildLifeStudentPrograms@nemours.org). Please include "Child Life Pre-Internship Application" in the email subject line. You will be notified by email if accepted.

***For Fall Semester*** — Deadline is March 15.

***For Spring Semester*** — Deadline is September 7. (We follow ACLP internship offer dates.)

**Q. Are there fees associated with your pre-internship program?**

A. No, there are no fees directly associated with our application process. We accept both independent students and students who will be completing their pre-internship for academic credit. If a student will be enrolled in school during their pre-internship, an affiliation agreement must be signed between their school and our hospital. Affiliation agreements may be pursued after a student has been accepted into our pre-

internship. In accordance with hospital policy, students will be subject to background and health screenings. Students will also be expected to purchase liability insurance. Depending on a student's individual circumstances, there may be fees associated with this on-boarding process. Students are also expected to have reliable transportation and will be responsible for their meal each day.

**Q. Are your student programs paid? Is housing provided for your student programs?**

A. No, our student programs are unpaid, and housing is not provided. However, parking is provided at no cost.

**Q. How long is the child life pre-internship program?**

A. Our child life pre-internship program is approximately 160 hours.

**Q. What is the schedule of the child life pre-internship program?**

A. The pre-internship program is two full days per week. Typically, those days are 8 hours in the hospital. There are two rotations in different areas of the hospital. The scheduled hours vary, depending on the schedule of the rotation supervisor. The schedule *may* include daytime, evening and/or weekend hours. In addition, there are required readings and assignments that must be completed outside of the student's scheduled hours.

**Q. What are the pre-internship program assignments to be completed outside of the scheduled hours?**

A. Assignments include, but are not limited to:

- Daily hours log, diagnosis log, procedure log
- Weekly journals, developmental assignments
- 2 interdisciplinary interviews and papers
- 2 therapeutic play activities implemented and corresponding assignment
- 2 diagnosis papers per rotation
- "What is Child Life?" paper
- Family-Centered Care paper
- Mock internship interview
- Case study/presentation
- Evaluations of program/supervisors
- Mid-term and final self-evaluations

**Q. What kind of supervision do pre-internship student receive?**

A. Pre-internship students have daily guidance and mentorship from their rotation supervisors and also meet weekly with the practicum coordinator for additional supervision, processing and opportunity for questions and support.

**Q. What is the size and framework of the Department of Child Life, Creative Arts Therapy and School Programs?**

A. The reporting structure in our department includes a director, two (2) clinical managers and a program coordinator. We have a Pet Therapy Coordinator who oversees the facility dog programming. Our program currently has approximately 16 FTE child life specialists who cover both inpatient and outpatient patient areas. Additionally, we have a Gaming/Technology Specialist and both a music therapist and art therapist. Our hospital schoolteachers see patients both in the classroom and at the bedside. In addition, our program

has multiple child activity coordinators who supervise our centralized playroom and assist with patient programming and bedside play.

**Q. What guidance do you have for a student who might want to pursue child life as a career but is not yet eligible for a child life pre-internship or internship?**

A. Those interested in pursuing a career in child life are encouraged to volunteer in a hospital child life program or a camp setting with a child life specialist. The ACLP website is also useful for resources and activities.

**Q. Can I shadow a child life specialist at your hospital?**

A. At this time, we do not have opportunities available to shadow a child life specialist. To learn more about potential volunteer opportunities, please visit:

<https://www.nemours.org/givingtonemours/volunteer/wilmington.html>