

Commonly used acronyms:

- ETCH = East Tennessee Children’s Hospital
- ACLP = Association of Child Life Professionals
- PICU = Pediatric Intensive Care Unit
- NICU = Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
- ED = Emergency Department

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Do you accept non-affiliated students?

- Affiliation with a college/university is a **requirement** of the ETCH Child Life student program at both the practicum and internship level. For the internship program, being enrolled in at least 1 college level course will satisfy this requirement as affiliated internship students do not have to be degree-seeking.

2. Do you require a child life practicum before internship?

- In keeping with the recent changes set forth by the ACLP, the ETCH child life program **does not** require a child life practicum to be eligible for an internship placement. However, we highly recommend some kind of pre-internship experience in healthcare or other community-based settings in which psychosocial support is provided to children and families in stressful situations.

3. Do you require any coursework or grade levels to be completed at time of student placement?

- For our **practicum** program, students must have completed their collegiate-level sophomore year, at least one child development course and one course taught by a certified child life specialist before the start of the practicum.
- For our **internship** program, students must be at least a bachelor’s level student and have completed the courses listed in the [ACLP’s Eligibility Assessment](#). Courses in progress at time of application will be accepted with the condition that the class will be completed before the start of the internship.

4. Do you require assignments or projects to be completed during student experiences?

- Our practicum & intern students attend a weekly group session regarding topics outlined in the [ACLP’s Internship Curriculum Modules](#). If a student has any additional requirements from their university during the duration of their clinical experience at ETCH, child life staff will work to integrate those into their experiences.

5. Does your program use the internship readiness common application from the ACLP? Are there any other documents required for your application?

- Yes—please click [here](#) to access the ACLP’s portal to complete the application. The ACLP is not responsible for sending common applications to individual facilities once completed. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure their application is complete, properly downloaded, and submitted to individual internship programs.
- If you would like confirmation of receipt of your application, please request a read receipt when emailing application requirements. Due to the volume of applications received each semester, the ETCH child life program cannot provide individual confirmation replies outside of a read receipt.

6. What is the selection process for the ETCH student program?

1. Applications are received and reviewed for eligibility and completeness.
2. Student selection team narrows down applications. This number will vary per semester depending on how many applications are received.
3. Top candidates are scheduled for virtual interviews with the student selection team.
4. Upon completion of all interviews, the selected candidate will be offered a placement according to the ACLP offer and acceptance dates.

7. Can I complete both my practicum and internship at ETCH?

- While the child life staff at ETCH welcome students at any level, we feel if you have completed a practicum at ETCH, you would be better served by seeking out an internship at another facility. Hospitals and child life programs vary in size and populations served. Gaining exposure to a variety of experiences will only make you more well-rounded and better prepare you for your child life career.

8. How long is your internship?

- The ETCH child life internship is a consecutive 600-hour, 15-week experience

9. Do you provide housing opportunities or assistance?

- Unfortunately, we do not. It is the responsibility of the student to locate & secure housing for the duration of their clinical experience at ETCH. Child life staff can provide recommendations regarding the best areas of town to live.

10. What areas does your department serve?

- The child life department at ETCH is established in the following clinical areas: Inpatient, PICU, ED, Radiology, Outpatient Surgery, Outpatient Clinics, Outpatient Hem/Onc Clinic. We also provide services to NICU and Outpatient Lab on a consult basis.

11. What is the dress code or uniform requirements during student experiences?

- The child life staff and students at ETCH can wear business casual or scrub bottoms with an ETCH branded or solid color top. ETCH branded logo items are available for purchase in our gift shop. Shoes that are comfortable, quiet on tile floors, closed toed & well appearing (no rips, tears, stains/mud as you will be on your feet a lot. When making wardrobe choices, keep in mind you will be exposed to opportunities that may get messy such as crafts, bodily fluid during procedures, and sitting in the floor during play.