What is a Child Life Internship?
Child Life Internships are learning opportunities where students apply theoretical knowledge to build a skill base. Under the supervision of a Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS), students gain progressive responsibility for the care of patients and families in the therapeutic setting. This affords the environment to integrate both knowledge and skill to build competency.

Should I apply to more than one internship site?
Yes, internships are highly competitive. Applying to as many sites as possible will increase the likelihood of an offer. University of Florida Health Jacksonville receives ten applications for each Child Life Internship position.

What does University of Florida Health Jacksonville’s Child Life Internship include?
The sixteen week, six hundred + hour program features mentored learning in the following topics:

- Orientation/Observation
- Family Centered Care
- Preparation/Support
- Resource Management
- Professional Issues
- Play
- Pain
- Ethics
- Bereavement
- EMR Documentation
- Developmental Perspectives
- Evidence Based Practice
- Cultural/Social/Environmental
- Performance Improvement
- Fiscal Management

Can I receive college credit for my internship at UF Health Jacksonville?
This is a requirement. UF Health Jacksonville can provide internships for students receiving credit from Georgia Southern University or any accredited college or university within the state of Florida. UF Health Jacksonville cannot provide internships for students receiving credit from colleges other than those mentioned above.

Do you accept independent students?
No.

Do you accept unofficial transcripts for the application?
Yes. Presentation of an official transcript will be required prior to the start of internship for the selected candidate.

What happens if my Eligibility Assessment from the Association of Child Life Professionals (ACLP) is incomplete?
UF Health Jacksonville requires completion of all required course work prior to the internship. At application, candidates who have completed the requirements will have the “Academic Courses” and the six “Child Life Course Topic” sections of the Eligibility Assessment marked as “Passed”. For any marked “Not Yet Passed”, the candidate will need to successfully complete the required course(s) before internship start date. Verification of current enrollment in course work to meet deficiencies must be submitted with application. Prior to the selected candidate’s start date, a successfully completed Eligibility Assessment form is required. The internship offer will be rescinded for failure to supply this form.
Is a Child Life Practicum required?
No. That said, history suggests that the completion of a practicum increases the candidates likelihood of receiving an interview. Over the last three terms, fourteen of the fifteen top candidates had completed a Child Life Practicum of 120 hours or more. Also, five of the six selected candidates had Child Life Practicum experience.

What can I do to be a top candidate?
Polish up! Applicants selected for interview share many of these qualities: timely and complete professional application, original presentation, strong writing skills, completion of the ACLP’s educational requirements, three hundred or more hours working with children, creativity, enthusiasm, leadership, and objectivity.

If I am selected for an interview, is it better to complete a telephone or an onsite interview?
Characteristics like creativity, enthusiasm, personal presentation, and leadership may be difficult to assess when the candidate and interviewer do not see each other. Over the last three terms the selected interns have all participated in onsite interviews. Each candidate must make their own decision on what is beneficial.

Will I be monetarily compensated during my internship?
Monetary compensation is not provided for UF Health Jacksonville’s Child Life internship program. However, interns are eligible for one meal voucher in the Cafeteria per day available. Parking is free. Additionally, interns are invited to hospital events, meetings, workshops and training sessions.

Is housing available?
No.

Are vaccinations required?
Before beginning the Child Life internship, preparation for Selected Candidate will include:
- Clearance from UF Health Jacksonville Volunteer Services - Submission of Volunteer Services Application, Consent for Background Screening, and Confidentiality Agreement
- Completion of Mandatory Training Module
- Clearance from Employee Health - TB surveillance, rubella, and varicella vaccination or titer reports –if vaccination is deemed necessary, this will be at the intern’s expense
- Human Resources identification badge

Are there many Child Life job opportunities available?
Child Life is a very competitive field. While there are positions available at any one time, the candidate pools are quite large. The member pages of the Association of Child Life Professionals website maintains listings of available positions. Relocation may be necessary to obtain the best job opportunities. Professionals who are willing to interview for and accept positions in any area of the country, hemisphere, or globe are those who are employed in the field six months out of internship. Certified professionals generally are chosen over those who are not, but some positions will allow the selected applicant to obtain certification within a specified amount of time.

How successful are interns trained in your program at passing the certification examination?
Ninety-nine percent of the interns who sat for examination have passed. Ninety-eight percent passed on the first attempt.