

## Technical Standards for Child Life Students in Clinical Settings

### A. INTRODUCTION

These Technical Standards are provided to internship candidates of child life clinical programs to inform the candidate of required academic and clinical criteria essential for participation in clinical child life programs. Technical standards for child life clinical students include physical, communication, intellectual, and social/behavioral abilities.

Child Life programs are rigorous clinical programs that require students to demonstrate essential qualities and capacities necessary to achieve the knowledge, skills, competencies and dispositions required for child life work. The student must progress with increasing independence throughout the clinical experience and by the time of program completion must be capable of competent and independent practice as an entry level child life specialist. The expectations and abilities listed below must be met by all students admitted to clinical internships, with or without reasonable accommodations. In the event that a student is unable to meet the Technical Standards, with or without reasonable accommodations, the student will not be accepted to the clinical internship or allowed to remain enrolled in the clinical internship.

### B. TECHNICAL STANDARDS

#### Physical Capacity:

With or without reasonable accommodation, a child life intern must have sufficient stamina, sensory acuity (vision, hearing, touch, smell) and neuromuscular control in order to:

- a. Observe and participate in activities associated with child and family observation and assessment, child guidance, and physically caring for (holding, picking-up, carrying) infants, toddlers, preschool, young school age children and adolescents, when appropriate.
- b. Perform additional physical requirements such as: bending, lifting, kneeling, stooping, pushing, pulling, sitting on the floor or on low chairs, and prolonged standing or walking.
- b. Perform visual assessment and observation of patient and family interaction and engagement in a safe, clinical environment.
- c. Adhere to universal precaution measures and meet safety standards applicable to inpatient and outpatient settings and other clinical activities.
- d. Manipulate and move patient, equipment and instruments necessary for patient transport and interaction.

#### Communication:

With or without reasonable accommodation, a child life intern must demonstrate sufficient oral, written, and nonverbal communication skills in order to:

- a. Communicate effectively, accurately, respectfully and sensitively with patients, their families and members of the health care team.
- b. Recognize and respond appropriately to non-verbal communications, including facial expression, body language and affect.
- c. Document information accurately and clearly and communicate effectively in various forms of written or electronic media (ex., electronic charting systems) in English with other health care professionals in a variety of clinical settings.

#### Intellectual Ability:

With or without reasonable accommodation, a child life intern must demonstrate sufficient intellectual abilities in order to:

- a. Analyze and integrate concepts and problem-solve to develop clinical judgments appropriate to the practice of child life services.
- b. Demonstrate an understanding of and apply complex information presented in the form of seminars, written materials, and clinical experiences.
- c. Understand and apply strategies for creating contextually-relevant and supportive psychosocial experiences for infants, toddlers, children, youth and families.
- d. Analyze, integrate, and apply detailed and complex information for problem solving and decision-making in an appropriate and timely manner for any given clinical situation.

#### Behavioral and Social Attributes:

With or without reasonable accommodation, a child life intern must possess the requisite professional behaviors and dispositions in order to:

- a. Organize time and materials, prioritize tasks, perform several tasks at once and readily adapt to changing situations.
- b. Demonstrate flexibility and sound judgment under stress (e.g. complete work within time constraints, maintain concentration during distracting situations, cope with diverse workloads, maintain personal and professional composure and respond appropriately in urgent and emergent situations).
- c. Demonstrate compassion, empathy, integrity, responsibility, honesty in addition to emotional health and stability in meeting the varying demands of the child life specialist's role.
- d. Exhibit positive actions and language for children, family members, and colleagues.
- e. Accept and respond in a professional manner to constructive feedback from the clinical supervisor and faculty instructor.
- f. Demonstrate self-reflective practice, as well as the desire for continued learning and professional development.
- g. Demonstrate flexibility and cooperation with others to work collaboratively.
- h. Demonstrate professional ethics outlined in the Child Life Council Code of Ethical Responsibility.

This facility is committed to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 in the United States (\*or the clinical internship site country of location's specific laws) regarding individuals with disabilities. It is the goal of this facility to ensure that qualified individuals with disabilities are not denied or subjected to discrimination during the application and interview process. Child life candidates who have a disability and need accommodations should initiate discussions with the clinical director as soon as the offer of internship is received and accepted. It is the responsibility of a candidate with a disability to provide current information documenting the general nature and extent of his/her disability, and the functional limitations proposed to be accommodated.

I certify that I have read and understand the Technical Standards for Child Life Students in Clinical Settings. I believe I can meet each of these standards with or without reasonable accommodations. I understand that if I am unable to meet these standards with or without accommodations, I will not be admitted or allowed to remain enrolled in the clinical internship.

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Signature of Intern Candidate

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Date