FAQ: HOW TO GET A CHILD LIFE INTERNSHIP BEING AN UNAFFILIATED STUDENT

IT'S OKAY TO BE INDEPENDENT - It is possible to be unaffiliated and get an internship!

Here is what independent students should ask themselves when applying for an internship:

- **Where am I willing to go?**
  There are PLENTY of hospitals that accept independent interns [List of Hospitals] and some requirements are not that much. Some just take the common application and a simple CPR certification.
  Look back at the eligibility requirements. They are available online at the CLC website. Use this as your base and go from there. If you need to take classes, we would suggest online courses at UCSB PaCE.

- **CLC Eligibility Components Met (M) or In Progress (IP)**

**Component 1** Bachelor’s degree: Bachelors Science, Community Health
**Component 2** Course Work: Enrolled in UCSB Extension Professional Child Life Certificate Program. Child Life: Introduction to Theory and Practice taught by CCLS will be completed December 2014. Need Child Development Courses (IP)
**Component 3** Clinical Experience: Working toward internship requirements then will apply. Unaffiliated options so far are ……
Currently Pediatric hospital volunteer and Substitute teacher, previous volunteer experience in community programs for children and families.

- **Difference between practicum and an internship?**
  The child life practicum is **150 hours** of observation of the hospitalized child, working alongside a child life specialist. The goal of the child life practicum experience is to familiarize the student with the hospital environment and to connect what they are learning in the classroom to real life experiences. Child life practicum offers you time to build your passion and begin to explore your beliefs about the needs of children in the health care system.

  The internship is **600 hours** of clinical skill development. The internship is for students whose career goal is to become a Certified Child Life Specialist. This provides the student the opportunity to have a more hands-on approach and learn child life skills through experience and with guidance from a Certified Child Life Specialist.

- **Can child life practicum hours count towards 480 hours of clinical experience required by the Child Life Council to be eligible for the certification exam?**
  No. Child life practicum hours are different than internship hours. The child life practicum is a time for observation and knowledge development. Internship is a time to learn how to function independently in the role of a child life specialist.