

About our Music Therapy Internship Program



Thank you for your interest in the music therapy internship at Children's Hospital New Orleans! Children's Hospital is a National Roster Music Therapy Internship Program that has been providing clinical training in medical pediatrics since the mid 1970's. Interns are accepted from all AMTA approved academic programs with your advisor's approval.



Music therapy interns are supervised by a Board-Certified Music Therapist (MT-BC). The internship lasts six months (26 weeks), January-June and June-December.

Children's Hospital is the first and largest full-service pediatric hospital in Louisiana and the Gulf South. The variety of diagnoses and age groups admitted to Children's Hospital offers a tremendous learning opportunity for music therapists in training. The major services of the hospital include Acute Care, Pediatric, Cardiac, and Neonatal Intensive Care Units, and the Rehabilitation Center. Interns in the Child Life Department work in each of these areas.

Acute Care Units

Music therapists work with acute care patients whose diagnoses range from congenital disorders, orthopedic issues, neurologic impairments, cancer, and blood related disorders as well as acquired or chronic illnesses, and many others in between.

Critical Care Units

Music therapists provide services for these patients at their bedside in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (CICU), and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Patients in these units are recovering from critical illnesses, accidents, surgeries, and medical issues related to prematurity.



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Rehabilitation Center

Music therapists serve as members of the Rehabilitation Team who work with patients who have brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, and various other illness/injuries that result in impaired function. Music therapy is a part of every patient's treatment plan when they are being treated in the rehab program. Rehabilitation Team meetings are held weekly to review patient progress, coordinate services and plan for discharge. Music therapy is frequently called upon to provide co-treatment with other therapists (PT/OT/ST) to assist the patient with reaching their goals.

Criteria for selecting interns

1. Music Therapy and related experiences (i.e., practicum, volunteer work with children or in a hospital).
2. Letters of recommendation and advisor recommendation
3. Successful completion of required coursework from an AMTA approved institution
4. Competency on at least 2 accompaniment instruments, not to include voice
5. Essay question responses, interview, and audition
6. Grades attained in coursework with emphasis on courses in Anatomy, Music Therapy Practicum/Pre-Clinical Experiences, music therapy coursework, Method and Materials Classes, applied instruments and attainment of the following competencies:

Musical Skills

- Ability to play basic chord progressions (I, IV, V) on the guitar in at least 2 keys to accompany singing
- Ability to play basic chord progressions (I, IV, V) on the piano/keyboard in at least 3 keys to accompany singing
- Ability to accompany a song on guitar and/or keyboard and lead a group in singing
- Ability to play a melody on the piano/keyboard and accompany it with simple chord progressions
- Demonstrate functional use of voice, including singing in appropriate ranges, with correct pitch and appropriate rhythm and volume
- Ability to transpose a simple song into 2 different keys on 2 different instruments, one of which must be guitar
- Ability to sight read a simple melody with written chordal accompaniment
- Ability to compose simple original songs
- Ability to improvise using keyboard, guitar, or ukulele
- General functional knowledge of music theory
- Knowledge of songs appropriate for all age groups, birth to late adolescence

Therapeutic Skills

- Ability to observe and assess a patient's response to music interventions, including the patient's mood, affect, and behavior
- Ability to accurately document progress from music therapy interventions
- Ability to express themselves verbally and in writing in a professional manner
- Ability to plan and implement age-appropriate music therapy interventions
- Demonstrate good time management skills
- Ability to remain flexible, and value the diversity of patient populations encountered
- Ability to work independently
- Demonstrate professionalism and ability to interact well with other disciplines
- Demonstrate ability to accept constructive feedback, and to seek assistance when needed
- Demonstrate ability to follow hospital policies and procedures, including infection control and confidentiality policies



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Submission requirements

1. Internship application
2. Three letters of recommendation, including one from your University Director of Music Therapy, which affirms that you are eligible for an intern placement and the attached checklist for evaluation of entry level requirements
3. A complete official transcript of courses and grades from all colleges/universities attended
Partial transcripts for equivalency or equivalency/master's students will not be accepted
4. Essay question responses – see application for directions
5. Other items to include in your application packet: resume, clinical documentation samples

Application deadline

A deadline of March 15 for January positions and October 15 for June positions is required. Please note that due to the volume applications our team receives, it will be necessary to strictly enforce these deadlines.

Requirements if accepted:

- Proof of Student Professional Liability Insurance
- Proof of Health Insurance Coverage
- Academic Affiliation Agreement – Hospital/University Contract
- Criminal Background, Social Security Search, and National Sex Offender Search
- Negative drug screen (10 panel)
- Seasonal flu vaccine (for the current year)
- Proof of Covid-19 Vaccination plus boosters
- Proof of Negative TB Test Results within the previous 3 months
- Proof of two (2) documented MMR vaccinations or positive measles, mumps, and rubella titers
- Proof of three (3) HEP B vaccinations and a positive titer or a signed Hep B declination
- Proof of Tdap within the previous ten (10) years
- Proof of two (2) documented Varicella vaccinations or titer that shows immunity

This information may not answer specific questions you have regarding Children's Hospital and/or what our internship program offers you personally and professionally. I encourage you to contact me with your individual questions and I will be more than happy to answer them. Your clinical training period is the last "rehearsal" before your career begins. It is of utmost importance you choose the facility most applicable to your needs.



[Contact us](#)

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