



## Music Therapy Internship

The music therapy program at Children's Health<sup>SM</sup> is committed to providing quality education and training to prepare you for a career as a music therapy professional. Children's Health offers a 6-month (1,040 hour), full-time, unpaid internship designed for students who wish to obtain board certification and pursue a career in music therapy. This highly competitive internship program has been an American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) National Roster Internship Site since 2004 and seeks committed students who are currently enrolled in music therapy university programs approved by AMTA.

After a completed application has been submitted and evaluated by music therapy staff, students may be contacted to participate in an interview (in person or by video) with the music therapy team. Interns are selected based on GPA, letters of recommendation, prior experience, personal interviews and musical skills. Graduate level training or those who have had experience in a hospital environment, either as a practicum student or volunteer, is preferred.

If accepted as an intern at Children's Health, the student's university will be required to engage in a contractual relationship with Children's Health. Students will also need to complete orientation requirements, including a drug screen and background check. Additional pertinent information will be provided upon acceptance.

During the internship, students will gain experience in all areas of the hospital and will be working with individual patients and their families, as well as in group settings. Students may also have the opportunity to work with the psychiatric population and to participate in Camp Sol, a hospital-affiliated organization for families who have experienced the death of a child.

### Internship Deadlines

<b>Internship Start</b>	<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>Interviews During</b>
January	May 5	May/June
June	October 5	October/November

## Internship Fact Sheet

### Internship Site

Children's Health - Children's Medical Center Dallas  
1935 Medical District Drive  
Dallas, TX 75235

### Description of Facility/Population Served

Children's Health takes great pride in serving as one of the largest and most prestigious pediatric health care providers in the country and as the leading pediatric health system in North Texas. Through our academic affiliation with UT Southwestern, we are a leader in life-changing treatments, innovative technology and ground-breaking research. We are honored to be consistently recognized among the top children's hospitals in the country by *U. S. News & World Report*.

For more than 100 years, our mission has been to make life better for children. Since our humble beginnings in 1913 as a baby camp, we have had a long-standing commitment to our community that includes not only high-quality patient care but also advocacy, education and preventive care with an unwavering focus on our mission.

The hospital has more than 50 specialty clinics and programs, plus a wide range of other pediatric services. Music therapists serve in several of these areas, including:

- Cardiology
- Hematology/Oncology
- Pulmonology
- Psychiatry
- Nephrology
- Gastroenterology
- Neurology
- Epilepsy
- Neurosurgery
- Neonatology
- Physical medicine and rehabilitation
- Solid organ transplant
- Bone marrow transplant
- Emergency Department
- Integrated therapy Unit

### Overview of Music Therapy Internship

- The music therapy internship at Children's Health has met the requirements to be an American Music Therapy Association National Roster Internship.
- The music therapy internship program began in 2005.
- The internship rotations include start dates in January or June.
- All rotations are at the Children's Medical Center Dallas campus.
- The internship is 1040+ hours, 26 weeks long, and 5 days per week.
- The internship consists of student group sessions as well as other readings, and projects throughout the experience.
- The intern will most likely be expected to work all holidays within the internship period.

- The intern will be expected to attend Camp Sol, a retreat for families who have experienced the death of a child.
- Facility dogs may be present in the office daily. Please keep this in mind before applying if you are allergic or fearful of dogs.
- This internship requires enormous flexibility and inherently contains a lack of predictability due to the hectic nature of the acute hospital environment. This can be difficult for some students, so please consider these attributes before applying.

#### Description of the Internship Experience

Music therapy internships at Children's Health are specially designed to meet student needs, address specific interests of individuals, and provide the training necessary to prepare interns in becoming outstanding professional music therapists. The internship curriculum incorporates music therapy challenges and strategies to address current health care issues. Students are given opportunities to build independent professional skills, strengthen music therapy skills, and develop assessment and intervention skills with groups and individual patients. The student's clinical music therapy supervisors, along with other staff members in the Child Life Department, provide instruction and guidance.

#### Space/Equipment

Interns will have a desk space to use, as well as access to copiers, computers, iPads, and the internet. The music therapy program offers an array of instruments for interns to use, including guitars, ukuleles, keyboards, percussion instruments, MacBooks, and iPads.

#### Internship hours/Schedule

Interns work similar schedules to their supervisor, typically Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Students will maintain a caseload of both individual patients as well group music therapy sessions that occur on a weekly basis. Most music therapy sessions are conducted bedside in the patient's room. The frequency of sessions is dependent on the need of the patient and the schedule of the music therapist. These sessions are designed to address several goal areas, including psychosocial support, coping skills, positive parent-child interaction, adjustment to hospital, pain and anxiety management, self-expression, family/sibling support, and grief support.

#### Description of Entry Level Requirements/Competencies

- 3.0 cumulative GPA
- Enrollment in a university music therapy program accredited by the American Music Therapy Association
- Successful completion of the music therapy coursework at the university prior to beginning the internship
- Attendance at a university that is willing and able to enter into a contractual agreement with Children's Health in a timely manner

- Completion of at least 3 music therapy practicum experiences, with at least one in a site that requires working with children
- Demonstration of ability to sing accurately and on pitch, both a cappella and while playing on an accompanying instrument
- Demonstration of ability to transpose a simple tune in three keys, using the I, IV, V chords on piano and/or guitar
- Basic knowledge of child development (motor, language, social, emotional)

#### Description of Professional Staff Working with the Intern

Children's Health currently employs multiple music therapists, and the assigned internship supervisor will rotate depending on which month the intern begins. The music therapy program is part of the Child Life Department, allowing music therapists to work closely with child life specialists. In addition, music therapists work with many other disciplines including doctors, nurses, social workers, clinical technicians, speech, occupational, and physical therapists, and chaplains.

## How to Apply

Please carefully read below to find out what information you will need for the internship application.

- Current resume listing academic background, music therapy practicum experiences and other relevant information
- Cover letter explaining why you have chosen to apply for this internship site and what qualifies you for this internship
- Complete unofficial academic transcript from all universities you have attended. (If selected, you will be asked to submit official documentation)
- Essays with no more than 250 words each that answer the following questions:
  - Why are you interested in becoming a music therapist?
  - What is your philosophy of music therapy?
  - What are your goals and expectations for this clinical internship?
  - What skills do you wish to enhance through this internship experience?
- A YouTube link of a mock music therapy session (with friends, family, etc.). This should be between 10-15 minutes. **Please make sure all YouTube links are unlisted or public, not private.**
- A YouTube link that includes a demonstration of musical skills on piano, guitar and voice.
- A YouTube link of the applicant answering each of the prompts below. Each answer should not exceed one minute.
  - Please tell us how you would explain music therapy to a member of the medical staff at a pediatric hospital.
  - Please play one minute of a song that would be appropriate for a teen (must use guitar or piano).
  - Please tell us about a time when your interventions appeared to fail during a session and discuss what you learned from the experience.
  - Please tell us about a time you had to approach an authority regarding a difficult subject.
  - Tell us about your greatest strengths and your areas for growth.

Visit [childrens.com](http://childrens.com) and search "music therapy internship" to access the online application form. In addition to the online application, you must submit three letters of reference (from non-relatives). These letters should address your clinical, communication, and musical skills, and at least one should be from your academic professor and include a statement of your eligibility to begin an internship. These letters must be emailed directly by the person completing the letter to [mtinternship@childrens.com](mailto:mtinternship@childrens.com).

### Contact Information

For additional information or with any questions, please contact Internship Director, Karen Norris via email at [karen.norris@childrens.com](mailto:karen.norris@childrens.com).