

Riley Cheer Guild Music Therapy Practicum

The Riley Cheer Guild Music Therapy Practicum site at Riley Hospital for Children is dedicated to a quality educational experience for advanced level music therapy students. The creative arts therapy department is committed to cultivating and supporting a culture of inclusion and equity. Our team continually works to better understand social justice issues within healthcare and is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We offer our practicum placement to qualified candidates regardless of age, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, race, or veteran status. The information outlined in this document should be used as a guide to place students in this program.

Due to the critical care nature of this environment, the music therapy clinicians at Riley have crafted an experience for an advanced level practicum student. Students placed at this site will be expected to have mastered a series of prerequisites from the Standards of Clinical Practice to provide the best possible preparation for the internship clinical experience and to protect the vulnerable patients served at the hospital. Clinicians reserve the right to recommend alternative placement within the first 2 weeks of the practicum experience if students do not meet the agreed upon requirements.

Our Practicum Experience

Below are some of the populations we work with. Population placement is dependent on therapist availability. You can request specific units; however, placement is not guaranteed.

- Cancer Center
- Neo-Natal Intensive Care (NICU)
- High Risk Maternity
- Pediatric Intensive Care (PICU)
- Tracheostomy/ventilator population
- Heart Center
- Rehabilitation
- Burn Center
- Medical/Surgical
- Inpatient psychiatry

This practicum will focus on the clinical application of music and therapeutic skills, with emphasis on clinical decision making. Students will be given opportunities to integrate higher clinical skills, technology, and creativity during their placement. In addition, students will better understand the role of a music therapist in the hospital setting, learn medical terminology, be introduced to pediatric medical music therapy specific techniques, and can learn from other disciplines within the hospital.

Students can expect to:

- Assess the unique needs of hospitalized patients and families
- Design and implement music therapy interventions to meet patient needs

- Write up comprehensive session plans
- Adapt treatment plans in the moment based on patient responses
- Learn to treat patients within the context of family centered care
- Gain a basic understanding of general medical terminology
- Better understand the role of self within the therapeutic context

Prior to placement at Riley, students must have:

- Music Foundations:
 - The ability to sing a 3-chord song by memory while accompanying on guitar, piano, or ukulele, in 2 different keys with accurate pitch and volume
- Clinical Foundations:
 - Basic knowledge of medical music therapy
 - Basic knowledge of prominent music therapy techniques (music and relaxation, improvisation, lyric analysis, songwriting)
 - Previous experience designing original treatment plans
 - The ability to select and adapt music, instruments, and equipment consistent with the strengths and needs of the clients, with particular regard to potential safety concerns

Academic Institution Responsibilities

- Due to the unique and sometimes lengthy onboarding process in the hospital setting, students must be identified the semester prior to placement so that the practicum start date is not delayed. We appreciate early applications, deadlines are:
 - July 31st (fall semester)
 - December 5th (spring semester)
 - May 1st (summer semester)
- Due to high demand and limited availability, the Riley music therapists will interview prospective practicum students. The application includes written essays and video submission of music skills. Our team looks for students with a good foundation of music and professional skills as well as self-awareness and established coping skills to handle stressful situations.
- Due to strict visitor policies, if you plan to come onsite to observe a session, you will have to complete the necessary observation paperwork. This paperwork can take time so you will need to get started at the beginning of the semester.

For any questions please contact:

Riley Practicum Coordinator

Caitlin Krater, MS, MT-BC

Ckrater@iuhealth.org

317-944-1146