

Columbia College Honors Program Honors Project Prospectus Cover Sheet

This TYPED form is due to the honors office the semester before enrolling in HON 498 (for example, students taking the course during fall semester must submit the prospectus by the end of April). The proposal should be approximately 1000 words in length, demonstrating careful, detailed planning and vigorous, genuine collaboration with your faculty director. The Director of Honors helps to evaluate proposals.

Name Ann Pitner

Title of project Deeper Growth: The Benefits of Honors Learning in a Full Time Internship

Hon. 498 Semester/Year Spring 2017 Credit hours 3

The following items should be addressed in the prospectus:

- 1. Describe the goals of the project. Provide specific details about how the project will be conducted and state a specific hypothesis (if applicable). You may also want to provide some background information about your topic.**

During the Spring 2017 semester, I will be completing a full time child life internship at St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, New Jersey. The goal of the internship is to grow my understanding, knowledge, practice, and skillset from that of an undergraduate child life student to the level of a certified specialist. Child Life Specialists are pediatric healthcare professionals who work with children and families in hospitals and other medical settings to provide for their psychosocial needs during hospitalization. Child life workers offer children age-appropriate preparation for medical procedures, coping strategies, play, and self-expression activities. They also provide information, support, and socioemotional care to family members to help them cope with illness and hospitalization as well. As a student, my role is to learn about child life and receive good field experience by shadowing specialists. As an intern, my role will be to begin practicing my own skills under supervision and learn as much as I can about the various aspects of a full time specialist. I believe that the type of learning we are encouraged to pursue as honors students will aid me immensely during this internship. In honors, the focus is not to learn more facts and figures with which to walk through our lives, but to have a deeper understanding of what we learn and to use our analytical minds to make deeper connections within the content and apply it to our lives. This type of learning will not only push me to learn more about the child life profession, but also have a deeper understanding of child development and family systems with rationale behind the choices I will make to help families in some of their darkest times. My goal is to use honors learning during my internship to have a deeper understanding of the work I will do and become the best child life specialist I can be. This reflective project will be an example and a product of this type of learning. I will gather all of the assignments which I will complete for both of my supervisors at St. Barnabas and for my academic supervisor of child life and will reflect on the experiences and knowledge I gained using honors learning for these assignments.

- 2. Describe how the project fits in with your educational background and experience and how the project is related to your post-graduation plans for career or graduate study. Describe how the project enhances your honors education.**

This project is a direct example of how I will use honors learning to enhance my understanding of my education in order to be a better child life specialist. This project will help me to have a deeper knowledge of child life foundations in order to be better prepared to help children and families during hospitalization. After this internship is completed and I graduate from Columbia College, I will use honors learning as I enter a workplace, with full confidence in my abilities to put into practice the things I have learned and to continue to learn as a specialist. Practicing honors learning as a student

and intern will be beneficial in my career, because I will continue to use honors learning as a professional and grow even more in my ability to help people. This project is specifically reflection based, which will allow me to self-reflect on the honors learning I will practice and continually assess how I can go deeper in my understanding of child life fundamentals throughout the semester. The final product will be a reflection on how well I was able to use honors learning as an intern and the benefits it will bring to my experience at the hospital. This project will also help to enhance my own honors education by allowing me to reflect on how I can better put honors learning into practice as a professional. Overall, this project should demonstrate how honors learning benefits my child life practice and how I can grow in my use of honors learning itself.

- 3. Detail how your director will assess your project. Include specific details about the assessment criteria. Describe in detail any product that you expect to generate. For example, if you will be completing a written paper, provide information about the expected length of the paper, the number of resources to be used, and the citation style to be used (APA or MLA, etc.). If you will be doing a creative performance or preparing a portfolio or some other product, you may include a checklist of items to be included and details about how the project will be judged.**

I will prepare a portfolio for this project. In this portfolio I will include evidence of the work I complete for the internship supervisors at St. Barnabas, evidence of the assignments I will produce for the completion of my degree at Columbia College, and a demonstration of my growth in honors learning and child life practice. In this portfolio, I will include:

- 1) Entry-level intern assignments
- 2) Medical Terminology Glossary
- 3) Journal
- 4) Mid-level intern assignments
- 5) Case Study
- 6) Article submitted to Child Life Bulletin
- 7) Upper-level intern assignments/ Final Project
- 8) Assignments for the completion of degree
- 9) Honors Reflective Essay

This project will be graded by completion, quality, and evidence of honors learning. Specifically, the director will assess whether I demonstrated a growth in knowledge and understanding of child life fundamentals and practice, as well as if I can show evidence that honors learning impacted my learning in a positive and visible way. All assignments will be completed in APA format with citations as necessary.

- 4. Provide a preliminary bibliography. Generally, a preliminary reference list of resources will be appropriate.**

Gaynard, L. (1990). *Psychosocial care of children in hospitals: A clinical practice manual from the ACCH Child Life Research Project*. Bethesda, MD: Association for the Care of Children's Health.

Hart, R., & Rollins, J. H. (2011). *Therapeutic activities for children and teens coping with health issues*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.

Johnson, J. E., Christie, J. F., & Wardle, F. (2005). *Play, development, and early education*. Boston: Pearson/A and B.

Kastenbaum, R. (1977). *Death, society, & human experience* (11th ed.). Saint Louis: Mosby.


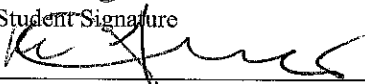
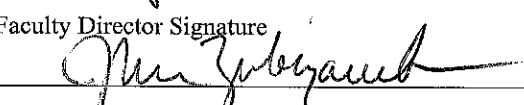
Rollins, J., Bolig, R., & Mahan, C. C. (2005). *Meeting children's psychosocial needs across the health-care continuum*. Austen, TX: PRO-ED.

Thompson, R. H. (2009). *The handbook of child life: A guide for pediatric psychosocial care*. Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas.

Thompson, R. H., & Stanford, G. (1981). *Child life in hospitals: Theory and practice*. Springfield, IL: Thomas.

Note: Projects completed during spring semester are due to faculty directors for assessment by early April. Projects completed during fall semester are due to faculty directors for grading by early November. The project is showcased for students, faculty, family, and friends at the senior Honors Medal Ceremony held before graduation. Displays may vary from computer presentations, to poster displays, to video segments, to artifact collections or any other creative, appropriate means to share your project. Although students complete their project during the junior year, graduates are expected to participate in the showcase at the Medal Ceremony.

The undersigned agree to the guidelines set forth in the Honors Project Prospectus:

	<u>12/1/16</u>
Student Signature	Date
	<u>12/1/16</u>
Faculty Director Signature	Date
	<u>1 Dec. 2016</u>
Honors Program Director Signature	Date