

Reflecting on my experience throughout my master's program, I had mixed emotions about my experience. Starting my program, I was ecstatic about starting my academic career and having the opportunity to grow personally. I have dreamed of working with other students who share the same passion and understand the child life profession. The classes were excellent and influential because I heard my peers' stories on why they chose this specific path. Throughout my academic career, my professors and my role models in each course have been kind and understanding. They always provided quick feedback and were open to bouncing ideas back onto one another. Throughout my academic career, I have learned how best to support children and their families through stressful times, whether in hospitals or other facilities. Academically, I think my favorite course involved my practicum. With my practicum, we had to complete observations in the hospital setting, which gave me a firsthand perspective on the child life profession. However, my mixed emotions stem from the outlook of retrieving an internship. I have attempted to obtain an internship for six rounds and could not retrieve feedback, no response, or get past applying. Although that experience of denial and rejection hurt, it allowed me to regroup and redirect into other careers I could pursue with my master's degree. Overall, my experience in my graduate program has allowed me to create a toolbox of all of the strategies, techniques, and understanding of the ages of development that will help me excel in the future.

