

2011 Summer Treatment Program

Undergraduate Internship Positions

The Summer Treatment Program of Children's Hospital - The Cleveland Clinic, announces positions for summer internships for undergraduate students and recent graduates in Psychology, Special Education, Pre-medicine, Child Development, Social Work, and related fields. Interns will work as paraprofessional counselors in the children's Summer Treatment Program (STP) for children with Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD) or Oppositional-Defiant Disorder (ODD). The program provides treatment tailored to children's individual behavioral and learning difficulties and serves children ages six through fourteen. The STP is directed by Michael Manos, Ph.D., Head of the *ADHD Center for Evaluation and Treatment (ACET)* and Section of Behavioral Medicine at The Cleveland Clinic. The STP was named as a Model Program for Service Delivery for Child and Family Mental Health by the Section on Clinical Child Psychology and Division of Child, Youth, and Family Services of the American Psychological Association, as well as the model for the Multi-Site study in ADHD funded by the National Institute for Mental Health and United States Office of Education.

Interns are employed from June 6 through August 12, 2011. Undergraduate counselor hours of employment are approximately 8:00 AM until 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday. In addition, undergraduate counselors will work with the children from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM one evening each week while parents participate in weekly parent training groups. Group Counselors are paid a stipend for their participation. In addition, academic course credit can often be arranged through the student's own university. Arrangements for credit may vary depending on the credit-granting department or university.

During the Summer Treatment Program, children and counselors are assigned to groups that remain constant for the duration of the program. Each group consists of five counselors (four undergraduate counselors and one lead counselor) and 10 to 12 children of similar age. Counselors implement the behavior modification treatment during recreational activities such as basketball, soccer, softball, and swimming. During these activities, counselors award to children and remove points from children for various behaviors. Children exchange the points that they earn for weekly field trips and home-based rewards. In addition to these rewards, children also earn social honors such as "High Point Kid" and "Honor Roll Status" based on their behavior during the treatment day. Counselors also conduct sports skills training, social skills training, and problem solving training. Counselors and children participate together in group cooperative task sessions and counselors facilitate dyadic friendship development. In addition, children participate in Academic, Computer, and Art Learning Centers each day. During these three periods, special education teachers and aides implement behavior modification programs that are designed to treat children's problems in a classroom setting. Counselors use the three learning center periods to plan activities, design and revise individualized programs and targets for children's daily report cards, and meet for supervision with ACET staff members. In addition to the behavioral programs described above, all staff members implement time out procedures when a child exhibits intentional aggression, intentional destruction of property, or repeated noncompliance.

Undergraduate counselors will be required to memorize the operational definitions of the point system behaviors used in the behavior modification program and the rules for daily activities *prior* to the start of the internship. Students will learn the goals and procedures of the program, and they will learn to function as paraprofessional counselors during the seven-week Summer Treatment Program (June – August 2011). Training for the internship will include:

1. learning the etiology, nature, and prognosis of ADHD, CD and ODD;
2. learning the behavioral treatment program (i.e., the token economy system, time out, physical management, etc.);
3. learning behavioral assessment procedures for pinpointing and monitoring behavior change;
4. learning to develop and to implement individualized behavior modification programs;
5. learning social skills and problem solving training procedures for children with peer relationship problems;
6. learning to assist in psychoactive medication evaluation; and
7. learning to record behavioral data and learning to enter behavioral data on Macintosh computers.

The Summer Treatment Program has been conducted at Florida State University from 1980 to 1986, University of Pittsburgh from 1987 to 1995, and the University of Buffalo, 1996-1999. Undergraduate counselors who have worked in the program have found it a valuable opportunity to receive intensive training and to gain experience with children in a clinical setting, and a means to obtain letters of recommendation to help them in their future careers. On a feedback form administered at the end of the 1995 program, approximately 90 percent of the undergraduates reported that working in the program was an experience that contributed significantly to their career goals and that they would highly recommend it to others.

Approximately 30 positions will be available, and applications will be competitive. Interested students should apply as soon as possible. In addition to the Undergraduate Counselor internship positions, several Developmental Aide positions will be available for undergraduate students and recent graduates. Students who wish to apply for more than one position should submit only one set of application materials. For additional information or to begin the application process, interested students should contact Kristina L. Raleigh M.Ed., PCC-S, The Children's Hospital - The Cleveland Clinic, Center for Pediatric Behavioral Health, CR11, 2801 MLK, Jr., Cleveland, OH 44104. Phone inquiries may be made by calling 216-444-0075. Applications are also available online at www.clevelandclinic.org/STP. Curriculum vitae and three letters of recommendation are required. The deadline for applications is March 15, 2011. However, the interview process will begin in January and will end once we have filled all positions, even if it is prior to the aforementioned deadline. It is best to apply early.