

ADHD Center for Evaluation and Treatment (ACET)
The Children's Hospital - Cleveland Clinic
2014 Summer Treatment Program

Graduate Student Internship Positions

The Summer Treatment Program of The Children's Hospital - Cleveland Clinic has summer internship positions available for graduate students in Clinical or School Psychology, Education and Special Education, Social Work, or Counseling and other related fields. Graduate students will work as Lead Counselors in the Summer Treatment Program (STP) for children with Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD), or Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD). 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 provides treatment tailored to children and adolescent's individual behavioral and learning difficulties. In 1993, 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 Treatment Assessment study in ADHD funded by the National Institute for Mental Health and United States Office of Education.

Lead Counselors are employed from June 2 to August 8, 2014. Hours are from 8:00 AM until 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday and include some weekend hours. In addition, Lead Counselors will participate in a parent-training group that meets one evening weekly until 8:00 PM. Many Lead Counselors work additional hours on evenings and weekends completing tasks and attending meetings. Lead counselors are paid a stipend for their participation. In addition, practicum credits can often be arranged on an individual basis through the student's own university program. Arrangements for practicum credit vary depending on the individual and on the credit-granting department or university.

During the STP, children and counselors are assigned to groups that remain constant for the duration of the program. Each group consists of one Lead Counselor (typically a graduate student), four other counselors (typically undergraduate students), and 10 to 12 children of similar age. Counselors implement the behavior modification treatment during recreational activities such as basketball, soccer, and softball. During these activities, counselors award points to the children for behaviors such as following the rules of the activity, helping a peer, sharing with a peer, complying with staff member's commands, contributing to group discussions, and ignoring provocations and insults. Counselors remove points from the children for behaviors such as aggression, noncompliance, lying, verbal abuse, teasing, swearing, interrupting, and complaining. In addition to taking points, counselors implement time out procedures when a child exhibits intentional aggression, intentional destruction of property, or repeated noncompliance. 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.

Prior to the start of the internship, Lead 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. During the first week of the internship, Lead Counselors will learn about ADHD and the goals and procedures of the Summer Treatment Program and will practice implementing the token economy/point system by participating in recreational activities and role-plays. During their second week, Lead Counselors will: (1) assist the program supervisors and returning staff members in training undergraduate counselors in the token economy/point system, time out procedures, social skills and problem solving training procedures; and (2) review the clinical records of the children with whom they will be working during the STP. On June 16, the seven-week STP will begin. During the last week of employment following the program, lead counselors write treatment summaries for each child in their group.

Each Lead Counselor will have four major responsibilities: (1) implementing the program's treatment protocol for the children in their treatment group; (2) developing and implementing individual treatment programs for the children in their group, as necessary; (3) supervising four undergraduate paraprofessional counselors in implementing the treatment protocols with their children; and (4) assisting in conducting parent training classes for the parents of the children assigned to their treatment group. Lead Counselors will be supervised in these activities by the ACET Program professional staff. Lead Counselors will be given the opportunity to attend weekly research meetings. The opportunity to become involved in ongoing research projects exists, although research hours are optional and above those required for clinical duties.

The Summer Treatment Program has been conducted at Florida State University from 1980 to 1986 and at WPIC from 1987 to 1996 and the University of Buffalo, 1996-1999. Lead Counselors who have worked in the summer treatment program have found it a valuable opportunity to gain intensive experience and training in working with children with behavioral difficulties, as well as an excellent chance to obtain supervisory and research experience and letters of recommendation. They have uniformly reported the experience to be the most demanding but also the most rewarding clinical experience of their careers. Several positions are available and applications are competitive. For additional information or to begin the application process, interested graduate students should contact Hilary Parsons, MA, M.Ed, The Children's Hospital at the Cleveland Clinic, Center for Pediatric Behavioral Health, CR11, 2801 MLK, Jr., Dr., Cleveland, OH 44104. Phone inquiries may be made by calling 216-444-0075. Applications are available at www.clevelandclinic.org/STP. Curriculum vitae and three letters of recommendation are required. The deadline for applications is March 21, 2014. 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.