ADHD Center for Evaluation and Treatment (ACET)
Cleveland Clinic Children’s
2021 Summer Treatment Program

Undergraduate Internship Positions

The Summer Treatment Program (STP) at Cleveland Clinic Children’s 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). The program provides treatment tailored to children's individual behavioral and learning difficulties and serves children ages 6-14 years old. The STP is directed by Michael Manos, Ph.D., Head of the ADHD Center for Evaluation and Treatment (ACET) at Cleveland Clinic Children’s. 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 study in ADHD funded by the National Institute for Mental Health and United States Office of Education.

Interns are employed for 10 weeks from June 7th through August 13th, 2021. 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 until 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 prizes from the point store 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 21st – August 6th, 2021). 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 record behavioral data and learning to enter behavioral data into database.

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. Based on recent staff feedback (collected 2018-2019), 100% of the staff reported that working in the program was an experience that contributed significantly to their professional development and 100% indicated that they would recommend the position to a friend or classmate. Sample comments from past staff include:

"I have never worked with people so highly educated, fun, kind-hearted, supportive, and relatable in my entire life."
- Undergraduate Counselor

"I believe I grew up immensely over the summer in both professionalism and communication skills in the workplace."
- Classroom Aide

"Fun, rewarding, enriching, formed awesome relationships with other staffers. Would highly recommend!"
- Undergraduate Counselor

Approximately 20-25 positions will be available, and applications will be competitive. Interested students should apply as soon as possible. Students who wish to apply for more than one position (e.g., classroom aide) should submit only one set of application materials.

For additional information or to begin the application process, please contact Eric Geyer, STP Program Director, by email at geyere@ccf.org. Phone inquiries may be made by calling 216-444-0075. Applications are also available online at www.clevelandclinic.org/STP. Curriculum vitae and two letters of recommendation are required. The deadline for applications is March 5, 2021. However, the interview process will begin in January and will end once all positions have been filled, even if this is prior to the aforementioned deadline. Therefore, prospective staff are encouraged to apply early.