



Summer 2009 Internship Positions



The Center for Children and Families (CCF) in the Psychology Department at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo, announces positions for summer internships for undergraduate students and recent graduates in the Summer Treatment Program (STP) for children with Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Conduct Disorder (CD) or Oppositional-Defiant Disorder (ODD). The program provides treatment tailored to children's individual behavioral and learning difficulties and serves children ages six through fifteen. The STP is directed by William E. Pelham, Jr., Ph.D., who is a Professor of Psychology at SUNY Buffalo. In 1993, the Summer Treatment Program 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. Additionally, in 2003 the STP received the Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD) Innovative Program of the Year Award. Moreover, the STP has been adopted as a core psychosocial component of the Multisite Treatment Study for ADHD that is funded by NIMH, and the Early Risers Prevention Program funded by SAMHSA.

Interns will work from Friday, June 19, 2009 through Saturday, August 22, 2009. The hours of internship are from 7:30 AM until 6:30 PM, Monday through Friday, and 7:30 AM until 6:30 PM, on three Saturdays. Friday, July 3, will be an observed holiday. In addition, counselors and aides continue to work with the children from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM one evening each week while parents participate in weekly parent training groups. A limited number of \$2500 stipends are available. In addition, academic course credit can often be arranged through the student's own university department or SUNY at Buffalo. SUNY-Buffalo is offering twelve credits through the psychology department for participating in the program. Arrangements for credit may vary depending on the credit-granting department or university.

In each Summer Treatment Program, children and counselors are assigned to groups that remain constant for the duration of the program. Each group consists of four or five counselors and 14 to 16 children of similar age. Counselors implement the behavior modification treatment during recreational activities including basketball, soccer, softball, and swimming. Counselors also conduct sports skills training, social skills training, and problem solving training. During these activities, counselors provide incentives (e.g., giving points, rewards, and/or praise) to the children for positive behaviors such as following the rules of the activity, helping a peer, sharing with a peer, complying with staff members' commands, contributing to group discussions, and ignoring provocation and insults. Staff members provide consequences (e.g., taking points, removing privileges, or providing time out) from the children for negative behaviors such as aggression, noncompliance, lying, verbal abuse, teasing, swearing, interrupting, and complaining. Counselors will have opportunities during the day to plan activities, to design and revise individualized programs and targets for children's daily report cards, and to meet individually or as a group for supervision from CCF clinical staff members.

The STP also includes academic components tailored to the specific program and ages of the children and may include academic seatwork, computer-aided learning activities, reading instruction, and cooperative learning experiences. During these activities, special education teachers and aides implement behavior modification programs that are designed to treat children's problems in a classroom context. Teachers and aides manage the children's behavior in the classrooms using a class-wide token economy that includes both reward components (e.g., receiving privileges or rewards for work completion and accuracy), response-cost

components (e.g., losing privileges for violating classroom rules), and time out from positive reinforcement. Public recognition and praise are given for assignment completion and for work accuracy. Aides will be responsible for implementing the classroom behavior management system; assisting the teachers in preparation of daily materials; scoring, grading, and recording of the children's work; and data entry.

Prior to the start of the internship counselors will be required to memorize the operational definitions of the categories used in the behavior modification program and rules for daily activities. During the first two weeks of the internship, all staff members will undergo intensive training conducted by the ADHD Program staff. 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. During the internship, students will learn:

1. the etiology, nature, and prognosis of ADHD, CD and ODD;
2. the behavior modification treatment program (token/point economy system, time out, physical management, etc.);
3. behavioral assessment procedures for pinpointing and monitoring behavior change;
4. how to develop and to implement individualized behavior modification programs;
5. social skills and problem solving training procedures for children with peer relationship problems;
6. how to record behavioral and academic data and enter data.

Interns will have the opportunity to attend a weekly seminar on research and ADHD. This seminar will enable participants to learn more about ADHD and to gain experience in the design and implementation of research in child psychopathology and psychotherapy.

The selection process is competitive; thus interested students are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. We are looking for hard working, dedicated people who not only have experience working with children, but who also have enough knowledge about various sports that they can appropriately coach and maintain stats on each child. **Position announcements, the 2009 application, and directions for completing and submitting application materials are available immediately via the World Wide Web at <http://ccf.buffalo.edu>.**