

2020 UCEDD Summer Internship Placements

UCEDD Summer Interns will be placed in various departments within the Institute on Development and Disability. In addition to weekly tours, seminars, and clinical shadowing opportunities, interns will have the opportunity to assist with their assigned departments with projects related to research, clinics, or community-based programs.

Below is a list of anticipated placements for summer 2020. More placements may be added and the actual job duties may vary and are subject to change.

Psychology

The psychology placement involves assisting with several studies related to chronic pain. The Maternal Chronic Pain Study will be nearing its second year this summer; this project is a large, longitudinal survey study that seeks mothers with chronic pain who have children between the ages of 8-12. Another study that interns may assist with is the Light Sensitivity study which utilizes several empirically supported pain-testing procedures to examine differences in pain response between children with chronic pain and children without chronic pain.

Anticipated learning outcomes:

- Knowledge about the research process including: participant confidentiality, consenting and interacting with participants, cleaning data and assisting with data analysis, and exposure to IRB regulations and procedures
- Increased understanding of psychology—especially related to cognitive behavioral therapy techniques, pain psychology, and coping mechanisms; additionally, interns will have opportunities to attend lectures and grand rounds related to pediatric psychology and other related fields
- Experience working in a fast-paced professional environment

Health Policy and Advocacy

This internship will focus on the creation of a policy toolkit, a resource guide for disability policy which includes researching legislator background, state legislature structure and schedule, federal government organization, and important disability policies. It will also include additional projects and activities, such as translating a research article into plain language for the community and participating in the research process.

Anticipated learning outcomes:

- Learn how local, regional, and federal policy is developed
- Identify, understand, and apply advocacy strategies for disability and health policies
- Recognize methods of intervention that include programmatic and research processes

Sexual Health Education

The sexual health education internship placement will involve development and dissemination of print and/or online learning tools for sexual health education for young people with disabilities. This project may also include development of web-based information to be included in our sexual health resource hub for individuals, parents, and professionals. This internship will involve working with the disability community to collaborate on the development of resources.

Anticipated learning outcomes:

- Develop and implement strategies to support the sexual health education of young people with disabilities
- Collaborate with community partners to advocate for sexual health equity for individuals of all abilities
- Create health promotion materials and educational tools for all learning abilities

Assistive Technology

An intern in the assistive technology department may be involved with helping to write software code for the brain-computer interface project.

There may also be opportunities to help with other assistive technology research projects that involve using technology to assist individuals with speech, language and communication disorders.

Anticipated learning outcomes:

- Identify research pathways that involve the intersection of biomedical engineering and the field of disability
- Develop computer programming skills
- Identify emerging technology that can remedy language barriers for individuals with communication disorders

Public Health

The Access to Health Care health promotion internship placement will involve working with a team of adults with disabilities on a promotion intervention/curriculum called “Taking Charge of My Health Care”. The intervention’s materials are in both a written and a video format. The internship will involve working with teams, to expand the materials (written and videos) and help formulate the next steps in creating an on-line training. This internship will involve working with the disability community to collaborate on the development of resources.

Anticipated learning outcomes:

- Develop health promotion materials that support the education of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to advocate for their health care
- Collaborate with community partners to promote the development of advocacy skills among people with IDD
- Create a training plan for implementation of a health promotion intervention

Previous disciplines that may be offered in 2020: Communications, Social Work, Family Support, Hemophilia