

Institute for Human Development University Affiliated Program



Overview of Training Experiences

The Institute for Human Development /University Affiliated Program (IHD/UAP) is located on the campus of Northern Arizona University (NAU) in Flagstaff, Arizona. The IHD/UAP seeks to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities through interdisciplinary pre-service and in-service training and technical assistance, research and dissemination. Since becoming a University Affiliated Program in 1990, the IHD has established several key initiatives in the area of pre-service training for students in disability-related fields of study resulting in expanded training opportunities. The following is a description of the types of training experiences offered through the IHD.

Interdisciplinary Trainee: The IHD/UAP and its programs select five individuals to be Interdisciplinary Trainees each academic year. As an Interdisciplinary Trainee, the student will participate in a variety of activities designed to extend their knowledge and skills pertaining to individuals with disabilities through direct service, research or policy development. Furthermore, the IHD/UAP encourages training experiences that promote interdisciplinary practice. The IHD/UAP strives to select students from a variety of disciplines to become Interdisciplinary Trainees. Students who are selected to be Interdisciplinary Trainees are asked to commit either 10 or 20 hours a week to fulfill their traineeship and receive financial support from the IHD/UAP (at those rates established for a graduate assistantship).

Eligibility: Any undergraduate or graduate student whose studies are in a disability-related field (i.e., Education, Special Education, Psychology, Health Psychology, School Psychology, Counseling Psychology, Nutrition, Dental Hygiene, Nursing, Physical Therapy, Social Work, Speech Language Pathology, Engineering, Public, Health) may apply. Students must have a GPA of at least 3.0 and must be attending school full time during the academic year for which they are applying.

Application Process: Applications are available through the IHD/UAP and all inquiries should be directed to Mr. Tom Uno (523-7032 and Thomas.Uno@nau.edu). Applications are accepted in March and April for the next academic year and selection is finalized in May.

Graduate Assistant: The IHD/UAP and any of its projects recruit students to assist in completing specific project activities. These Graduate Assistantships differ from the Interdisciplinary Traineeship in that the activities in which the student is engaged generally address project-specific goals and the student's attainment of knowledge and skills is secondary. Participating students engage in a variety of activities depending upon the nature of the project and receive financial support at established university rates according to their status (undergraduate, master's and doctoral).

Eligibility: Any undergraduate or graduate student may apply. Students must have a GPA of at least 3.0 and must be attending school full time during their



tenure as a graduate assistant. Additional qualifications may be identified in those instances where projects need specialized assistance.

Application Process: Applications are available through the IHD/UAP and all inquiries should be directed to Mr. Tom Uno (523-7032 and Thomas.Uno@nau.edu). The application process is initiated throughout the calendar year and interested students are encouraged to check regularly for postings of available graduate assistantships. Applicants will be notified as to the application procedures at the time of application.

Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Disability Studies: Graduate students may participate in this program which is designed to allow students to further their knowledge and skills to work with individuals with disabilities and their families across the life span. Participating students complete coursework and practica (15-18 hours) in four areas (foundations, methodology, fieldwork/practica and interdisciplinary seminar) and independent study/research which is a program option. It is anticipated that students will complete the certificate program in three semesters and will receive a certificate upon satisfactory completion of the program. Students who are accepted in this program may also apply to become Interdisciplinary Trainees. (See above)

Eligibility: This program is closely associated with degree programs preparing students for disability-related fields of study. Students must have a GPA of at least 3.0 and must be attending school full time. Students who demonstrate career interests that align with the intent of the certificate program and who are able to manage the additional courses will be selected.

Application Process: Applications are available through participating academic departments and the IHD/UAP. The application process is coordinated between a faculty member from the student's area of study and Dr. Karen Applequist from the IHD/UAP. The application process is open all year. Students are encouraged to apply during the spring semester so that they may begin the program in the fall to complete the course sequence in the prescribed manner.

Short-Term Training Experiences

Interdisciplinary Training Clinic: The purpose of the Interdisciplinary Clinic is to provide students with interdisciplinary training experiences in child assessment and intervention. All services are provided by students under supervision of faculty from their respective academic areas. Participating students will commit a minimum of approximately 2 hours a week over a six-week time period. Students will be involved in teaming activities and planning and conducting the assessment, which includes report writing.

Eligibility: After the initial referral information has been gathered, the Coordinator of the Interdisciplinary Training Clinic will identify key components needed in the evaluation. She will then contact faculty from the respective disciplines who will identify a student to participate in the clinic. Participating students must be able to devote sufficient time to the clinic process over the six-week period. There is no formal application process. Each student must have a faculty sponsor to participate.



Fieldwork Experience/Practica/Internships: Many departments require students to participate in fieldwork experiences, practica or internships to meet program requirements. The IHD/UAP will work with department faculty and students to identify sites that provide appropriate experiences that meet the requirements of a student's program and foster interdisciplinary practices. Students interested in pursuing this option are requested to contact Dr. Karen Applequist (523-9276).

Independent Study/Research: Through its projects and other community-based programs, the IHD/UAP conducts a variety of activities that a student may be involved in. Students may wish to focus their study or research in a particular area that is closely related to a project's activities. Students are encouraged to contact project staff to propose a project. Project Coordinators must give final approval and must notify the Preservice Coordinator before these projects can begin.

