

WKU- Kelly Autism Program's Circle of Support

Internship Learning Objectives

Contact cec@wku.edu for questions

Program Description: KAP at WKU has created the Circle of Support, a program that offers six areas of assistance specifically designed to address the challenges faced by students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and to increase their success on campus. The major areas of assistance provided by KAP Circle of Support include: private residence hall rooms, study tables, mentoring, socials, mental health counseling, and weekly advisor meetings. This internship specifically works in the mental health counseling area of assistance.

Ages/Populations Served: Mental health counseling is available to any KAP Circle of Support participant. Their ages range from 18-28, with some adjustments based on the individual. The intern may be required to have a phone conference with a parent or an in-person meeting with parents, the students KAP advisor, or professor, if necessary.

Characteristics: The successful intern will be organized, flexible, positive, and a skilled communicator. Readiness to apply learned theories and techniques and compassion will be essential for the internship.

Website: www.wku.edu/kapcircleofsupport

This internship is designed for a second-year master's level student, who is ready to grow professionally. It will provide a comprehensive experience focused on the social worker's responsibility to him/herself, the organization, the client and the community.

The following are the primary learning objectives.

1. The student will be oriented to the various Clinical Education Complex programs and how they collaborate together to support the clients throughout their lifespan.
2. The student will become competent in Autism Spectrum Disorder and its unique impact on each of their clients.
3. The student will gain experience assessing the client's level of therapeutic need based off of internal and external factors.
4. The student will learn the basic structure of individual therapy and its administrative tasks as well.
5. The student will learn about the importance of self-care in preparation for a future career in the social work field.
6. The student will gain a basic understanding of collaboration with other professionals across disciplines in order to better serve our clients.

By the end of the placement the student will:

1. Understand and be able to explain to others about the services, supports that are provided at the Clinical Education Complex and its mission.

2. Be able to identify what characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder are impacting each individual the most and their impact on any co-morbidity issues the client struggles with.
3. Know how to assess a client's presenting and on-going therapeutic need and implement therapeutic support as needed.
4. Practice theories and techniques within the structure of individual therapy, as well as its administrative tasks as well.
5. Have experience in practicing self-care concurrently to providing mental health support and making academic progress within their masters.
6. Gain competency in how to communicate and collaborate with other professionals to provide the best support to our clients.

In addition to the above expectations, students will be given the option to serve in other programs throughout the Clinical Education Complex. This provides the intern an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder across the lifespan and develop the varying skill sets to work with different ages and populations.

Sample Intern Task List

Intern duties and opportunities may include but are not limited to:

- Providing individual therapy sessions to our Circle of Support participants
- Conducting intake sessions, in which the client fills out necessary paperwork
- Keeping up with their own scheduled sessions with clients and following up when sessions are missed, rescheduled, or canceled
- Checking in with other Circle of Support or CEC staff members in regards to the client, if the client authorizes such communication
- Completing and keeping up to date all necessary documentation, such as session notes, client authorizations, memos, etc.
- Participating in and co-facilitating a social pragmatics group
- Researching and familiarizing self with new therapy theories and techniques as needed
- Actively participating in supervision
- Communicating with family members or professors about the client, if the client authorizes such communication
- Participating in staff meetings