

# Training in Research, Autism, and Interdisciplinary Leadership

The Autism Institute is pleased to announce a new personnel preparation project that will provide funding for scholars interested in a PhD in Communication Science and Disorders with a specialization in Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Four new scholars will join the Training in Research, Autism, and Interdisciplinary Leadership (TRAIL) program. This Office of Special Education (OSEP) funded project represents a collaborative effort between the Florida State University (FSU) Autism Institute in the College of Medicine and the School of Communication Science and Disorders.

Scientifically validated and specialized knowledge and skills in the field of autism will be integrated into the comprehensive research based curriculum in Communication Science and Disorders to produce personnel with highly marketable and meaningful expertise. Specialists trained in this program will be equipped to assume leadership roles in research, personnel preparation, and program development and implementation. The proposed model is competency-based and combines rigorous coursework in research methodology with the following components:

- Participation in a set of core courses on evidence-based practice for students with autism, and a 4-semester sequence of leadership seminars on autism and translational research,
- Participation in 16 hours/week of autism research activities with project faculty designed to systematically support the scholar's capacity for independent research,
- Involvement in 4 hours/week of research-to-practice activities with a special focus on addressing children and students with autism and their families in high need areas,
- Leadership mentoring by project faculty, Autism Institute collaborators and recent graduates using an apprenticeship approach, and
- Completion of student-driven products (outcome measures) that demonstrate mastery of leadership competencies in research, teaching and administration.

The traineeship program has been designed for scholars interested in a rigorous research based doctoral program in Communication Science and Disorders with a specialization in autism. Research opportunities are available both within University and field based research settings. Unique aspects of this project are: 1) active participation in cutting edge, diverse, research projects including several that directly relate to serving children with disabilities in high need areas; 2) involvement in program development with the Autism Institute including interaction with family members, individuals with autism, community providers, and national and state-level policy makers, 3) demonstration of research and teaching competencies in academic and community implementation settings; 4) opportunities to translate empirically-supported research to practices within high need communities and 5) use of technology for teaching, research and program development for rural and underserved regions.

**AUTISM INSTITUTE**

The Florida State University College of Medicine

<http://med.fsu.edu/index.cfm?page=autismInstitute.home>



The traineeship includes an in-or out-of-state 9 credit hours tuition waiver per semester for up to four years depending upon satisfactory progress, a competitive stipend, benefits including health insurance, and funds for professional travel and research costs. We anticipate two traineeships will be available in Fall 2013 and two starting in Fall 2014. Trainees may begin coursework in spring or summer with approval from their major advisor. Review of applications begins Jan. 15, 2013 and will continue until filled.

Doctoral scholar candidates must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States and must have received their master's degree prior to beginning the traineeship. While scholars are not required to have earned their Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) or to have their master's degree in speech language pathology, work experience with individuals with ASD and their families is highly recommended. As this project is funded through the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) as a Scholarship/Loan, scholars will be required to work in their required field after graduation for a period of two years for every year they receive funding or repay their scholarship/loan with interest.

Interested applicants should apply to Florida State University and the School of Communication Science and Disorders for entrance into the program. In addition, email a letter of interest, a copy of your vita, and at least two examples of written products to the Project Director, Dr. Juliann Woods, [jwoods@fsu.edu](mailto:jwoods@fsu.edu) and/or Co-Director Dr. Amy Wetherby, [Amy.Wetherby@med.fsu.edu](mailto:Amy.Wetherby@med.fsu.edu).

Florida State University is recognized by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education as engaged in very high research activity, the highest status accorded to a doctoral-granting university. The wide-ranging scholarship of FSU faculty and graduate students is nationally and internationally recognized for its contributions to science, business, government, culture, and society.

Tallahassee boasts diverse heritage and is flourishing with many cultures, rhythms and flavors. Museums, festivals, cuisine, arts and crafts, and year-round events honor and celebrate diversity of heritage in the Tallahassee area. Florida's Capital City played a big role in the story of Florida and in American history and we are still making history today.

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