



HANDS in Autism®

Interdisciplinary Training and Resource Center

2016-2017 Student Positions

Overview

The HANDS in Autism® Interdisciplinary Training and Resource Center has enjoyed a strong reputation for providing practical information and resources derived from evidence-based strategies. The overall mission of the HANDS in Autism® Center and programs offered through the Center have been focused on the provision of unique and customized learning and service opportunities ranging from live, real-time to online, asynchronous formats all designed to improve capacity for understanding both the process and application of strategies to individuals across a range of ages, intellectual and functional abilities and neurodevelopmental, behavioral and other challenges. Hands-on training, ongoing coaching and diverse consultative experiences are offered to foster the building of bridges of information, resources and collaboration across family, educational, medical and community systems.

The unique service, training, and research environment within the HANDS in Autism® Center is supported by a tiered combination of faculty, trainers, support staff, students, and community volunteers. Student positions range in their roles, expectations, and levels of learning across program assistant(s), research assistants, and direct support role(s) that meet requirements for practicum, internship and fieldwork placements. Student positions specific to the type provide opportunities for clinical, didactic and research activities. We support approximately 4 students a year in each student position type to allow for enhanced didactic experiences and project team collaboration.



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School of Medicine

Our staff are involved in a number of programs and opportunities ranging from school and community-based services and consultation to vocational and post-secondary evaluation and training, center-based programming, as well as public health and policy activities. Student positions, specific to the role, have opportunity to be a part of a breadth of services across natural settings within the school, home, community, post-secondary, and work environments. Research activities and positions focus on translational dissemination and implementation research complementing the service activities and evaluating public policies and statewide efforts.

About HANDS in Autism® ITRC

The HANDS in Autism® Interdisciplinary Training and Resource Center was developed in 2004 with foundational support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to extend outreach and training offered from the Indiana University School of Medicine across settings within communities. The HANDS in Autism® Interdisciplinary Training and Resource Center is a provider of innovative, research-based, and practical trainings and technical support to school staff, medical and service providers, community organizations, primary caregivers, and individuals on the autism spectrum within Indiana. The HANDS in Autism® Interdisciplinary Training and Resource Center has a trained interdisciplinary staff composed of 8 full-time individuals with extensive background and involvement in the fields of psychology, special education, general education, public health, communications, and instructional design, as well as experience in the training of school personnel, professionals from other related fields (e.g., medical, mental health), families, caregivers, and individuals with disabilities. Also involved are part-time staff and several students, residents and volunteers to assist with the productivity and pre-service opportunities available in the field. Service is provided across medical, educational, and family/community systems through a number of means ranging from an interactive website to social media to onsite trainings.

HANDS in Autism® Positions Available

In 2016-2017, HANDS in Autism® is seeking dedicated students, interns, residents and post-doctoral fellows to fill specific roles within our Center. This is a great way for students to gain additional exposure and experience as part of their programming, electives, rotations, and/or educational experiences!



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

School of Medicine

❖ **Program Assistant**

- Requirements: minimum of 10 hours/week; preferred academic year commitment
- Orientation Training & Support: Orientation day, ongoing training and support, hands-on involvement with staff in ongoing projects
- Activities: program-level support of staff working with children and adults with disabilities; preparation for programming & events; coordination of community events and awareness efforts; specialized support for programs (e.g., informatics & new media, PR & marketing, business development, public health & policy, social services)

❖ **Research Assistant**

- Requirements: minimum of 15 hours/week; preferred academic year commitment
- Orientation Training & Support: completion of CITI and COI research requirements; project team orientation; hands-on involvement with staff in ongoing projects
- Activities: research study support & involvement as part of study specific teams; data collection, entry, & analyses; literature reviews; presentation &/or dissemination; publication drafting, reviewing, and editing opportunities

❖ **Direct Support Assistant (i.e., practicum, internship, externship, fieldwork placements)**

- Requirements: minimum of 20 hours/week with consideration of placement or course specifications; preferred academic year commitment
- Orientation Training & Support: attendance at HANDS Intensive Week-Long Training and/or webinar requirements; seminar training series; hands-on involvement with staff and/or clients in HANDS ongoing projects
- Activities: setting-based consultations & evaluations across home, school, medical, work and community settings; web conferences and teleconsultations; individual and group programming sessions; direct support of HANDSmade™ interns; training, evaluation, and consultation with individuals with ASD, families/caregivers, school personnel, community and medical providers, and regional community networks



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

School of Medicine

Programs offered through the HANDS in Autism® Center offer the opportunity to work with children and adults from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds with a wide range of medical diagnoses including but not limited to Autism Spectrum Disorder, Down Syndrome, cerebral palsy, cognitive impairments, developmental disabilities, speech and language impairments, hearing impairments, vision impairments, Attention Deficit Disorders, intellectual disability, mild to severe traumatic brain injury, and various psychiatric disorders. Our office employs a diverse staff with various backgrounds and areas of interest to allow students the opportunity to specialize in their individual areas of interest.

HANDS in Autism® Programs

Students who work with the HANDS in Autism® Center are afforded a unique, non-traditional opportunity to engage in innovative means of support within an interdisciplinary setting. Programs offered through the HANDS in Autism® Center include but are not limited to the following:

Setting-Based Consultations & Evaluations

- Single or multi-day consultations are provided within home, school, community, correctional or other natural settings for individuals across the lifespan with a range of disabilities and functional, behavioral, educational, and related needs.
- Comprehensive independent evaluations focusing on academic, functional, behavioral, or other identified needs for individuals across the lifespan are completed at the request of schools, families/caregivers, providers, and/or as part of legal consultations.

Individual & Group Programming

- Direct service programming is informed through skill-based assessment and delivered through a combination of goal-directed interventions consisting of general skills teaching and training specific to the identified academic, behavioral, and functional needs. Such needs may be related to challenges impeding successful inclusion and/or growth within academic, social, vocational, and/or community activities or placements. Group formats are driven by integrated needs such that individuals involved within the group are working on individualized yet complementary goals.



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

School of Medicine

- Programming may be delivered at the HANDS in Autism® Center or off-site in natural environments such as the home, school, or other community-based settings.

HANDS in Autism® Collaborative Classrooms & Sites

- Delivery of data-driven training and support aligned with the HANDS in Autism® Model, a comprehensive framework for implementation of evidence-based practices, occurs in community-based classrooms statewide to foster local capacity and a training hub for the use and application of evidence-based practices. School-based teams work with HANDS trainers to systematically learn, apply, and implement core components successively building upon prior concepts and application with different students.
- Application of the HANDS in Autism® Model occurs across early childhood, school, medical, post-secondary, and vocational settings statewide with opportunities for community-based collaborations and efforts specific to local needs.

HANDSmade™ Supported Employment Program

- The HANDSmade™ Supported Employment Program represents a partnership between the HANDS in Autism® Center, IU Health, and Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health. The HANDSmade™ Program affords HANDSmade™ interns with opportunities to learn job readiness and on-the-job skills in real-life settings within partnering departments, units, and offices on the campus of IU School of Medicine and within Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health and IU Health main campuses.

HANDS in Autism® Vocational Rehabilitation Provider Services

- Evaluation, job-readiness training, and community-based consultation services are provided as part of the HANDS in Autism® VR Provider Services. Evaluations consist of a combination of formal and informal assessments related to referral questions shared by parents/caregivers and VR staff. Training and consultation services are informed through assessment leading to goal-directed activities with documentation of supports, strategies, and progress towards selected goals that directly relate to vocational and/or post-secondary goals for VR consumers. Opportunity for collaboration with other VR staff, providers and or families/caregivers fosters increased consistency in service delivery.



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

School of Medicine

HANDS in Autism® Next Steps Workshops

- Statewide Next Steps Workshops provide a means for sharing information with families/caregivers who have a child with ASD as well as a range of community members and professionals to provide information, resources, and supports related to the “next steps” after receiving an ASD diagnosis. Attendees are afforded the opportunity for discussion, to ask questions, and to connect with other families and professionals in their areas while receiving a comprehensive Next Steps manual and additional resource materials.

HANDS in Autism® Local Community Cadres

- Local Community Cadres are comprised of regional community stakeholders coming from a variety of arenas to inform local needs and to provide input related to statewide policies and activities. LCCs operate and support activities related to dissemination, information sharing, networking and training within regional areas, as well as serving as ongoing work groups for the Indiana Interagency Autism Coordinating Council which is facilitated by the HANDS in Autism® Team.

HANDS in Autism® Team

The HANDS in Autism® Center is overseen and supported by an interdisciplinary team of individuals with extensive experience in the fields of psychology, applied behavior analysis, general education, special education, instructional design, public health and communications. Students have the opportunity to work directly with HANDS in Autism® team members across projects. For more information about the HANDS in Autism® Team, visit <https://handsinautism.iupui.edu/people.html>.

Looking to Partner or Get Involved?

If you are interested in a position, we encourage you to learn more and fill out an application a <http://handsinautism.volunteerapplication.sgizmo.com/s3/>

If you, your colleagues, or your department or school have individuals interested in any of these opportunities or have an interest in arranging an ongoing partnership for student positions, please email Tiffany Neal, Ph.D., nealtiff@iupui.edu, or Naomi Swiezy, Ph.D., HSPP, nswiezy@iupui.edu.



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