

INSPIRE: Interdisciplinary Related Services Personnel Preparation for Early Childhood (Year 1) Application

Dear Applicant,

The Departments of Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences at the University of Florida have received a 5 year, \$1,240,451 grant from the U.S. Department of Education for personnel development. The project is entitled: **INSPIRE: Interdisciplinary Related Services Personnel Preparation for Early Childhood**. We are now recruiting applications for the first year of funding.

This project trains and supports graduate and professional students to help alleviate the regional shortage of highly qualified personnel in occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech-language pathology who are able and willing to work collaboratively in early intervention and schools across the nation. This grant provides tuition support for up to three semesters of one academic year in your respective program for three OT, three PT and three SLP students.

The project will select scholars for one year of funding who are:

1. SLP graduate students beginning year 1 of their master's program and OTD and DPT students beginning year 2 of their professional program;
2. Willing to take an additional course in interdisciplinary early childhood services, attend early childhood seminars in the College of Education, participate in a half-day orientation workshop in August 2022, and participate in a half-day workshop in the summer of 2023;
3. Willing to complete a clinical rotation/fieldwork in pediatrics;
4. Interested in learning more about how to work with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in early intervention and school settings;
5. **Willing to work with children with disabilities in early intervention and/or a school setting for 2 full years within 7 years after graduation.**

Following graduation, scholars will receive mentorship during their two year required work in early intervention and/or a school setting.

To apply for funding, you must complete the attached application and include all required documents. These applications must be received by **April 1, 2022 for OT and PT students** and **May 1, 2022 for SLP students**. Applications will be reviewed by faculty and Advisory Board members outside of the applicant's educational program. Funding decisions will be announced by June 1, 2022.

If you have additional questions about applying please contact one of the Co-Directors for this project who are listed below. We look forward to your application and wish you success.

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INSPIRE Fellowship Application

Deadline: April 1, 2022 for OT and PT and May 1, 2022 for SLP

This scholarship is funded by a U.S. Department of Education Grant to the University of Florida College of Public Health and Health Professions under CFDA 84.325K (Interdisciplinary Preparation in Special Education, Early Intervention, and Related Services for Personnel Serving Children with Disabilities who have High-Intensity Needs).

Please complete the application and submit electronically at this link:

<https://forms.gle/gpYBibKXMzJYhKXeA>

Applications will be reviewed by the INSPIRE Advisory Board and faculty outside of your department.

NOTE: If funded, you will be required to complete a Criminal Background Check

A complete background check indicating no issues will be needed prior to acceptance to the INSPIRE program. This will be completed in conjunction with your academic program.

MATERIALS TO INCLUDE (submit all files in ONE .pdf or Word document):

1. LETTER TO THE COMMITTEE:

Attach a 250-300 word letter in which you explain to the Selection Committee:

- a) Your professional interest in working with the pediatric population in early intervention and schools.
- b) Your projected professional employment goals after graduation which involve working with the pediatric population, i.e. where do you see yourself working 3-5 years after graduation?

2. RESUME (Most current):

You might expand the resume to be sure it includes:

- a) Clinical and other experiences working with children
- b) Extracurricular activities especially those involving children
- c) Honors
- d) Work and community service especially those involving children

3. TRANSCRIPTS:

Include a copy of your undergraduate and graduate/professional transcripts (unofficial transcript is acceptable)

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4. LETTERS OF REFERENCE: Two letters are required.

- One recommendation from an individual who can support your resume and reflect your interest in children, especially those with disabilities.
- One personal reference that speaks to your professionalism-see below. Provide the prompt to your reference.

- **Prompt for Reference Letter (provide to your personal reference):**

Please comment on **at least 3** characteristics (traits and values) that you believe the student possesses and best illustrates the applicant (see list of traits and values below). For each characteristic, provide (describe) specific examples to support the description of the characteristic that you are highlighting.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Potential traits to highlight:</u> • Knowledge and creativity • Professional communication • Teamwork • Resilience (response to stress, feedback, etc.) • Planning and organization • Ethics and/or integrity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Potential values to highlight:</u> • ambition • competency • individuality • equality • integrity • service • responsibility • accuracy • respect • dedication • diversity • improvement • loyalty • credibility, honesty • innovativeness • teamwork 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stewardship • empathy • accomplishment • courage • wisdom • independence • challenge • learning • persistency • optimism • dependability • flexibility • excellence • accountability • empowerment • quality • efficiency • collaboration
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