This award winning program was established in 1987.
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INTERDISCIPLINARY TRAINING PROGRAM 
IN CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

The purpose of this brochure is to inform prospective graduate students, faculty, and interested professionals about the Interdisciplinary Training Program in Child Abuse and Neglect (ITP) offered by the Center on Child Abuse and Neglect in the Section of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. This overview of the training program is intended to provide information to (a) prospective students for determining whether the program would meet their academic interests and training needs, (b) faculty who refer students and participate academically in the program, and (c) community professionals who will be involved in providing supervision to students through practicum placements.

I. INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

The increase in reports of child maltreatment over the past fifteen years has placed demands for expertise in child abuse and neglect on a broad range of professionals. It is generally acknowledged that training for professionals such as physicians, psychologists, nurses, attorneys, dentists, social workers, and educators has not kept pace with the demands for expertise. Although a great deal of information related to child maltreatment has been compiled over the past 30 years by professionals in various disciplines, there continues to be a need to develop a comprehensive, interdisciplinary approach to graduate professional training in child abuse and neglect.

In 1987, the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) established the Child Abuse Training and Research Section in the Department of Pediatrics, College of Medicine. In that same year, OUHSC was selected by the Department of Health and Human Services as one of ten universities nationwide to receive funding to establish an interdisciplinary graduate training program in child abuse and neglect. This specialized training program is currently the only such program in medical schools in the United States. The Center on Child Abuse and Neglect received additional funding for the ITP from the Presbyterian Health Foundation in 1991, the Goldman Foundation in 1994, the Inasmuch Foundation from 2003-2005, from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services (Grant D40HP08524) from 2007-2010, and in 2011 the Oklahoma City Community Foundation and the Oklahoma Department of Human Services provided funding for the program.

The Interdisciplinary Training Program in Child Abuse and Neglect is currently directed by the Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, a university designated Center established in the Department of Pediatrics in 1992. To date, 400 students from medicine, psychology, sociology, social work, law, public health, dentistry, occupational therapy/physical therapy, human relations, nursing, public health and education have completed the training program. Twenty-one graduate students from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, the University of Oklahoma, the University of Central Oklahoma, and Oklahoma City University are currently enrolled in the 2011-2012 class.

II. PROGRAM GOALS

The educational goals of the Interdisciplinary Training Program in Child Abuse and Neglect are:

1. To provide future leaders in the treatment and prevention of child abuse and neglect who are rigorously trained and understand the value of the prevention of child maltreatment, and who have gained a respect for the contributions of the different disciplines involved in child maltreatment;

2. To provide knowledgeable leaders to the field of child abuse and neglect who are committed learners in all aspects of child maltreatment, including the commonalities and unique features of:
a. the primary disciplines of law, social work, medicine, and psychology;
b. the main types of abuse, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and psychological maltreatment;
c. the fundamental organization of services for the identification, treatment, and prevention of child maltreatment; and

3. To provide future leaders who will, through professional advocacy, education, policy development, research, and service, contribute substantially to the knowledge base for the prevention of child maltreatment locally, nationally, and internationally.

III. THE SETTING

The Interdisciplinary Training Program in Child Abuse and Neglect (ITP) is directed by the Center on Child Abuse and Neglect in the Section of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC). The OUHSC main campus is located in Oklahoma City and is part of a 200 acre complex of private and public institutions known as the OU Medical Center including Children’s Hospital and Everett Tower. The Center on Child Abuse and Neglect has ten faculty who teach, conduct research, provide patient care, and administer child abuse programs.

The Center on Child Abuse and Neglect is located in Children’s Hospital, a major children’s teaching hospital and the primary clinical facility used in the diagnosis and treatment of abused and neglected children in Oklahoma. The didactic component of the Interdisciplinary Training Program is conducted at the OU Child Study Center.

The University of Oklahoma is the most comprehensive system of higher education in the state. Though based at OUHSC, the Interdisciplinary Training Program in Child Abuse and Neglect (ITP) utilizes faculty from all three university campuses, including the main campus in Norman, OUHSC in Oklahoma City, and the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine in Tulsa. Currently, 33 faculty members from a variety of disciplines participate in the ITP academic program.

IV. DESIGN OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM

The Interdisciplinary Training Program in Child Abuse and Neglect (ITP) is a rigorous academic program with a curriculum that includes both didactic and practicum components. The training is interdisciplinary in focus with students being exposed to a broad range of didactic and practical experiences with academic and practicing professionals from a variety of disciplines.

The ITP is an eight-month program for advanced students in medicine, psychology, sociology, law, social work, public health, nursing, dentistry, occupational therapy/physical therapy, education, and related disciplines. The program provides specialized training in administration, clinical practice, policy formation, advocacy, prevention, and research in the field of child maltreatment. The program is designed to provide 12 credit hours of graduate training with the credit being arranged through each student’s major department or through the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the OUHSC. The academic year for the ITP is August through April.

The ITP students are required to attend weekly seminars for two semesters; read one required text and supplementary materials; fulfill practicum requirements; participate in a Mock Trial; and complete a special project. To be eligible for the ITP, a student must: (a) be enrolled in a graduate or post-graduate program, (b) have sufficient background in their major discipline to benefit from interdisciplinary training, (c) evidence a
career interest and commitment to the field of child abuse and neglect, (d) demonstrate leadership potential, and (e) have the recommendation of their major advisor or department chair.

Prospective students submit an application and are interviewed in the spring by an interdisciplinary faculty team. Students are rated on their academic background and current academic standing, experience in child abuse and neglect, leadership potential, ability to work in an interdisciplinary setting, and commitment to the field of child maltreatment. Students are notified of their acceptance in late spring, provided with a summer reading list, and required to begin the ITP the following fall. Course credit and enrollment are arranged on an individual basis by the student, his/her major graduate advisor, and an ITP faculty member.

V. DESCRIPTION OF THE DIDACTIC COMPONENT

The didactic component of the Interdisciplinary Training Program in Child Abuse and Neglect (ITP) consists of weekly seminars (90 clock hours) and a Fall conference featuring nationally recognized experts in child abuse and neglect (1-3 days). Additionally, students have one textbook and are assigned supplementary readings for the seminars. A special project, such as a research proposal, case study, policy analysis, or systems review, is also required.

The seminar program is organized into two parts: I. Statement of the Problem, and II. Society’s Response to the Problem. The first semester seminars address Part I and present information on: 1) the roles and perspectives of the primary disciplines involved in the child abuse field, i.e., medicine, law, psychology, and social work; and 2) the medical, legal, and psychological aspects of the four forms of child maltreatment.

The second semester seminars address Part II and focus on the various interdisciplinary and organizational approaches to intervention and prevention of child maltreatment. The seminars are taught from an interdisciplinary focus with faculty members from different disciplines presenting the didactic material and/or serving as discussants. The seminars include discussions of ethical implications, pertinent case examples, ways to integrate new knowledge into daily practice, and recommendations of areas needing further research.

VI. DESCRIPTION OF THE CLINICAL COMPONENT

Students selected for the ITP program are required to complete a clinical component composed of two practicum requirements. The first requirement is a discipline-specific practicum that is designed on an individual basis by the student, the student’s ITP advisor, and the student’s faculty advisor from his/her department.

The hours required for the discipline-specific practicum are set by the individual departments, i.e., law, psychology, or social work, and range from 160 to 640 hours over the eight-month period. These practicum experiences are designed so that the students will be involved in a variety of experiences within their own disciplines that are related to child abuse and neglect. For example, a psychology student may be involved in conducting a psychological assessment of an abused child, providing individual and/or family treatment to an abuse victim, or testifying in a court-related case. On the other hand, a law student would be placed in a legal setting for this practicum requirement and might deal with the prosecution and/or defense of child abuse cases.

Additionally, a cross-discipline practicum is required of all ITP students. This 35-hour practicum requirement exposes the students to varied experiences in the field of child abuse and neglect outside their own discipline. For example, all students are required to go on an investigative call with a child protective services worker, participate in a Child Protection Committee meeting at the OU Medical Center, and observe treatment programs for both physical and sexual abuse victims, perpetrators, and family members. Students will receive a list of cross-discipline experiences and contact information in the fall.
In order to establish an interdisciplinary graduate program in child abuse and neglect, faculty were recruited from the University of Oklahoma, the OU Health Science Center, and Oklahoma City University. At present, the ITP has faculty members from psychology, medicine, social work and law. The faculty members serve as lecturers, seminar discussants, and supervisors for clinical practice and research projects. In addition, professionals from the child abuse and neglect service community are utilized as adjunct instructors and represent law enforcement, child protective services, juvenile and criminal justice, treatment programs, and advocacy groups.

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:**

May 1st, 2012

*Applications may be accepted after deadline if positions are available.*

Interested students may fax, e-mail or mail completed application with signature to the attention of:

Kacey Persaile
Center on Child Abuse and Neglect
Section of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
940 NE 13th St.
Oklahoma City, Ok 73117
Phone # (405) 271-8858 ext. 49693
Fax # (405) 271-2931
E-mail: Kacey-Persaile@ouhsc.edu
1. Name: __________________________________________________________________________
   Date: _______________ Social Security #: ____________________________________________
   Address: _________________________________________________________________________
   City, State (Country): _____________________________________________________________
   Zip: _____________________________
   Phone: (W) _______________ (H) _______________ (C) _______________________________
   Email Address: ______________________________________________________________________
   Permanent Address: ____________________________________________________________________
   City, State (Country): _____________________________________________________________
   Zip: _____________________________

2. Are you currently enrolled in a university for graduate or post-graduate training? Yes_____ No_____
   If yes, name of the university_____________________________________________________

3. Will you be enrolled at a university for the upcoming academic year? Yes_____ No_____
   If yes, name of the university: ____________________________________________________
   Department/Program: _____________________________________________________________
   Major Advisor or Department Chair: _________________________________________________
   Degree: _________________________________________________________________________

4. Number of years in current academic program: _________ Current GPA: ________________

5. Field of study:
   ______ Education     ______ Law       ______ Medicine    ______ Public Health     ______ Dentistry
   ______ Nursing       ______ Social Work ______ Psychology ______ Sociology    ______ Journalism
   ______ Other ______________________________________________________________________
   (Please specify.)

6. Major Advisor or Department Chair (current academic program):
   Name: ___________________________________ Phone: _________________________________
   Address: _________________________________________________________________________
   Email: __________________________________________________________________________

7. Major area(s) of interest in child abuse and neglect:
   ______ Administration    ______ Prevention    ______ Clinical Practice
   ______ Academic/Teaching ______ Research     ______ Policy Formation
   ______ Other _____________________________________________________________________
   (Please specify.)
8. Previous experience in child abuse and neglect (please be specific):
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________

9. List positions of leadership you have held in the past:
   College: ____________________________________________________________
   Community: _________________________________________________________
   Work-related: ________________________________________________________

10. Please attach a typed statement (approximately 500 words) of how specialized training in child abuse and neglect is related to your professional goals.

11. Please provide names, addresses, and phone numbers of two references familiar with your academic and or/clinical work.
   a. ______________________________________________________________________
      ______________________________________________________________________
   b. ______________________________________________________________________
      ______________________________________________________________________

12. Please include a copy of your vita or resume.

13. Major Advisor’s Approval: ___________________________  Signature  ___________________________  Date _____________
    Phone: ___________________________

14. Applicant’s signature: ___________________________

15. Ethnicity*
* This information is confidential and will be used in a cumulative form without any personal identification for such purposes as reporting to a funding agency and grant applications.

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