

### **SCHOLARS Program Information**

#### ***(Students Committed to Helping Others Learn about Autism Research and Support)***

The SCHOLARS program is a paid job opportunity at Saint Joseph's University, where undergraduate students learn the skills necessary to support individuals with autism through a hands-on training experience.

The success of Kinney Center programs depends largely on the commitment of the Kinney SCHOLARS. Each SCHOLAR plays an important part in helping the children in the programs succeed in reaching their program-specific goals, as well as in their day-to-day lives.

SCHOLARS must be completely committed to Kinney Center clients and the Center's efficient operation.

#### **Primary Responsibilities:**

- Commit to working Kinney Center programs for 12 – 15 hours per week, per semester based on student's academic schedule across Mondays through Thursdays (between hours of 8:30 a.m. – 8 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays (between hours of 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
- Attend required annual SCHOLARS training delivered across the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June, as well as program specific trainings assigned per semester
- Deliver direct care services to individuals with autism attending Kinney Center programs, utilizing research-based principles received in training, such as applied behavior analysis, through the oversight and supervision of graduate level and full-time staff
- Implement and adhere to prescribed schedules, interventions and curriculum for each program, including individualized behavior plans and support plans (i.e. IFSP, IEP, ISP).
- Collect data on individual's behaviors and skills observed throughout programs
- Assist with the preparation of program materials and follow and meet all deadlines prior to the start and throughout the length of the program
- Attend scheduled meetings with Kinney Center staff, graduate assistants, and other SCHOLARS.
- Abide by the policies and procedures outlined in the main SCHOLARS training.
- Arrive on time for all program assignments, trainings, and meetings.
  - The schedule will be defined depending on the program.
- Maintain the confidentiality of the students involved in Kinney Center programs.

#### **Secondary Responsibilities:**

- Attend and support Kinney Center events, volunteer opportunities, and resource fairs
- Professional and ongoing communication in person and via email across job responsibilities
- Provide and encourage feedback to and between group members on a consistent basis
- Communicate any concerns or ideas regarding clients, the program, or issues affecting job performance with assigned Graduate Assistant or Program Director.

#### **Minimum Qualifications**

- Attend annual SCHOLARS Trainings and CPI

- Complete initial required clearances and maintain yearly clearances requirement (state criminal background check and TB test)
- Be cleared through initial physical form upon hire, to be able to physically engage with active clients and lift up to 30 pounds
- Remain in good academic standing at Saint Joseph's University (2.5 GPA or higher) to be an active SCHOLAR
- Other duties as assigned via programs, such as ability to swim in a pool with clients in Camp Kinney and Sports and Recreation Programs

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### **Notification of Behavioral Exposures**

Autism is a social-communication disorder which involves deficits in communication, appropriate social interaction, and regulating sensory input/restricted interests. In lieu of such deficits, individuals with autism often develop inappropriate behaviors to communicate or adapt to their environment. Behaviors that may be exhibited can range from hand-flapping, yelling, or crying to more intensive behaviors such as tantrumming, aggression, or self-injury.

Due to the nature of autism spectrum disorders, SCHOLARS may be exposed to such behaviors when working Kinney Center programs. The Kinney Center utilizes best practices to support both the SCHOLARS and clients with such behaviors, known as Applied Behavior Analysis. ABA is a scientific methodology utilized to address such behaviors, known as a gold standard of intervention for autism and related disorders. Please review the details below related to supporting such behaviors and support provided.

- SCHOLARS will be provided the necessary training and support to implement ABA procedures which teach alternative appropriate behaviors and help to avoid, reduce, and respond to inappropriate behaviors. It is the SCHOLARS role and responsibility to learn and implement such procedures through the support of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst.
- SCHOLARS will be provided with the client's behavior information prior to working with the individual. SCHOLARS may communicate personal limitations or reservations regarding the specific behaviors of their client, which could result in an alternative client or program assignment. \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial)
- SCHOLARS will immediately report all incidences of behaviors of aggressive or self-injurious nature to the program director on staff, as well as documentation through the required data collection systems and incident reporting procedures at the Kinney Center.
- SCHOLARS will receive ongoing training and support before, during, and after Kinney Center programs, including therapeutic rapport delivered by the program director on staff after such instances of behavior outlined above.
- Due to confidentiality of clients, it is the SCHOLARS role and responsibility to communicate and seek resources regarding such behaviors within the client's clinical team (such as program director, graduate assistant). However, at any time SCHOLARS



wish to seek additional support related to exposure to such behaviors, Marci Berney is available as a resource through the Office of Student Outreach & Support.

*To ensure support and safety, in the event of a SCHOLAR receiving physical injury or displaying an emotional outburst, an additional incident report will be generated by Public Safety and follow-up may occur from the SJU Student Health Center, Office of Student Outreach & Support, etc.*

In learning how to support individuals with autism, I understand that I may be exposed to clients exhibiting acting out behaviors at the Kinney Center for Autism Education and Support. I understand I will receive the necessary training experiences and related procedures in support of my safety and success in the SCHOLARS Program.

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(SCHOLAR signature)

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(Date)