

## **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 2021, and participate in a half-day workshop in the summer of 2022;
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, 2021**. 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, 2021.

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, 2021**

*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:

<https://forms.gle/Ukoh3TcXRzTvqNi99>

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

## **I. PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Name:

UF Email:

Non-UF Email:

UF ID Number:

### Local Address

Street:

City:

State

Zip Code:

Home/ Cell phone

### Permanent Address

Street:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Phone:

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## **II. EDUCATION**

Current Professional Program:                      PT      OT      SLP

Date of Entry to Current Professional Program:

Current GPA for Professional Program (OT/PT) or GPA at Graduation from Bachelor's degree (SLP):

Undergraduate Degree:

Date:                      Institution:    GPA:

Other Degrees:

Date:                      Institution:    GPA:

## **III. Commitment**

**If selected for funding, will you accept the following conditions?**

I certify that to the best of my knowledge all the information on this Scholarship Application form and the attached materials is true.

If funded, I agree to complete the required coursework and clinical practicum for the INSPIRE program.

If funded, upon completion of the INSPIRE program, for the one year of funding, **I agree to maintain eligible employment for two years**, on a full-time or full-time equivalent basis, to infants, toddlers, and/or children with disabilities in early intervention or school settings.

**Failure to do so will result in repayment of the scholarship funding according to the federal standards.**

Electronic signature on Google form is acceptable for the application. If selected for funding a formal commitment letter must be signed.

## **IV. LETTER TO THE COMMITTEE**

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

1. Your professional interest in working with the pediatric population in early intervention and schools.
2. 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?

## **V. RESUME (Most current)**

You might expand the resume to be sure it includes:

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- 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

### **VI. Transcripts:**

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

### **VII. Letters of Reference:** Two letters are required.

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

Letters of reference should be uploaded with your application to:

<https://forms.gle/Pn1cWQthUK19ATfJ7>

**All letters are due by April 1, 2021 for application to be considered.**

### **VIII. Criminal Background Check (if funded)**

A complete background check indicating no issues will be needed prior to acceptance to the INSPIRE program.

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