

# *Graduate Interdisciplinary Preparation of Special Education Personnel to Serve Children and Youth with Autism*

*The Florida State University (CFDA 84.325 K)*

Florida State University is pleased to announce a collaborative program of studies between the School of Communication Science and Disorders and the Autism Institute to support pre-service training of speech-language pathologists in the area of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). This program will provide the specialized training needed to support graduate level personnel seeking knowledge and skills for identifying and serving young children and students with autism spectrum disorder.

Research-validated practices will be integrated into the program curricula to produce personnel with highly specialized skills and knowledge to provide services to students with autism. Scholars trained in this program will be equipped to function in a wide variety of settings and roles important to early intervention and school programs serving children and youth with ASD. The competency-based model will integrate academics and practicum in community programs serving toddlers, students, adolescents and their families and include:

- *characteristics and nature of autism across the age span;*
- *assessment and intervention strategies including appropriate learning goals, functional curriculum, individualized programming, and inclusion strategies;*
- *positive behavior support for challenging behaviors;*
- *interdisciplinary teaming, consultative and coaching approaches to service-delivery; and*
- *technology use to enhance self-determination.*

Unique aspects of this project are: 1) each scholar will be mentored by local families and providers to gain real world experience in home and community settings; 2) community programs will serve as the basis for a required applied research experience with children and families; 3) national leaders, family members, and community providers will be active participants in the practica/seminars/courses supported through technology; and 4) a series of three specialization seminars will address (1) evidence based and family centered early identification and intervention, (2) school based collaboration and positive behavior supports, and (3) translating research to practice in supporting adolescent social communication and technology use for transition to post-secondary education, employment, and community participation.

Stipends (\$4000 per semester) and tuition waivers (10 graduate credits per semester) will be available for 5 students. Scholars must meet departmental requirements for a master's degree in speech-language pathology. Students should be aware that stipends and tuition waivers are considered forgivable loans as per the U.S. Department of Education. Forgivable loans can be repaid through training-related work whereby scholars perform full-time work related to their preparation in a setting serving children with special needs for a period of two years for every year of financial assistance.

Interested students should submit an application (see following page) to:

*School of Communication Science and Disorders, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-1200*  
*E-mail: [jwoods@fsu.edu](mailto:jwoods@fsu.edu)*

# *Autism Spectrum Specialization Education and Training (ASSET) Application*

*The Florida State University (CFDA 84.325 K)*

We anticipate the availability of approximately **5** new competitive traineeships for **Fall - 2017**. Interested students admitted to the School of Communication Science and Disorders at Florida State University are invited to submit an application to participate in ASSET. Applications will be reviewed by project personnel and initial decisions about applications will be made as soon as possible and hopefully no later than **April 5<sup>th</sup>**. Participation in ASSET will begin **Fall** semester, will be renewed each semester based on satisfactory progress in completion of coursework and project competencies, and can continue for up to a total of **3** semesters contingent on availability of funding.

The application should include your name and contact information (mail, phone, and email), two names and contact information of previous or current faculty who have agreed to serve as references, and three brief essays in response to the following three queries. Your application **DOES** matter.

1. Describe your own experiences or interests that draw you to this training project.
2. Autism spectrum disorders provide both challenges and opportunities for individuals diagnosed with the disability, their families, intervention and education team members, community members and society as a whole. Identify a question or a concern that you feel should be studied or a program that could be developed that would enhance the quality of life for students with ASD and their families or improve the service delivery system. Provide a rationale for the importance of your identified topic and what benefits could be offered as a result of the study or model project.
3. Participation in this project obligates you to employment in a school, early intervention program or other agency that serves children with special needs. What would you be looking for in your ideal job when you graduate, knowing that there is a service obligation requirement to work within an education setting?

**Interested students should submit their application to:**

*School of Communication Science and Disorders, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-1200*

*E-mail: [jwoods@fsu.edu](mailto:jwoods@fsu.edu)*

ASSET Website: <http://asset.fsu.edu>