Opportunities for Clinical Research Internship (Child Assessment Support Role)

MAPS (Mapping the Diversity of Young Children)-Integrated Research Program (MAPS-IRP), is a developmentally based clinical research program which focuses on characterizing and predicting the early emergence of mental health problems. **We are seeking interested students for up to 6 Child Assessment Support Role (CASR) volunteer internship positions available to advanced undergraduate and graduate students.** CASRs will be participants in a NIH multidisciplinary team that includes clinical and developmental psychologists, methodologists, and neuroscientists.

Interns will work on the MAPS Follow-Up Study (MAPS-FUS) *(PI: Lauren Wakschlag, PhD)*, a National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) funded study designed to identify developmentally based brain:behavior markers in early childhood that best predict which young children are most at risk for chronic mental health problems by ages 9-10. MAPS-FUS is a follow-up of the recently completed MAPS preschool age study. MAPS is based in the Program on Developmental Mechanisms in the Dept of Medical Social Sciences in Northwestern’s Feinberg School of Medicine [http://www.mss.northwestern.edu/research/developmental.html](http://www.mss.northwestern.edu/research/developmental.html). (To learn more about the MAPS Study, see citations below.)

**Northwestern students:** There is an opportunity for 399 course credit.

**Child Assessment Support Role (CASR; up to 6 openings):**
The CASR is a key member of the assessment team for the MAPS-FUS team. Diverse parents and their children participate in intensive lab-based assessments at school-age (6-8 years old) and at pre-adolescence (9-10 years old). Assessments include direct observation, neurocognitive tasks, puppet interviews and parent interviews about clinical symptoms and family context. The CASR participates in clinical research by assisting the data collection team with transitioning between tasks, supervising siblings who are present during a family’s visit, entering visit data, and overseeing audio-video recording. The CASR adheres to the lab protocol for lab visit preparation, administration, and completion, and may be assigned general office work and other duties in support of the study. The CASR may also attend team meetings including journal club and other scientifically relevant activities as well as have opportunities for career development guidance. This is an excellent position for students interested in careers in clinical or developmental psychology or related fields. It provides outstanding opportunity to obtain experience in clinical research assessment with diverse, developmental populations. CASRs who excel often find that this role is a stepping stone to paid employment as a Research Assistant, as opportunities arise within the Developmental Mechanisms Program.

All interested candidates should email resume and contact information for two references to Gayle Byck, PhD at gbyck@northwestern.edu. Positions will be available until filled and will start ASAP.

**Experience/Skills:**
(1) Experience or demonstrated interest in working with diverse children and their families; (2) Experience working in a research setting; (3) Experience with team work; and (4) Reliable and enthusiastic

**Time commitment:**
(1) 10 hours per week; (2) 6-month commitment preferred; (3) Weekend work is required; and (4) Must commit to regular time slot for the six month period (scheduled absences are permitted within reason)

**Illustrative Papers from MAPS Preschool Phase**

