Mission Statement

The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center, as a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, values uniqueness and individuality and promotes the self-determination and full participation of people with disabilities and their families in all aspects of community life.

As a catalyst and resource, The Boggs Center, through partnerships and collaborations, builds capacity in organizations, systems and communities in a culturally competent manner. The Boggs Center prepares students through interdisciplinary programs, provides community training and technical assistance, conducts research, and disseminates information and educational materials.

The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities

The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities is New Jersey’s federally designated University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDD). As part of Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, The Boggs Center provides community and student training and technical assistance, conducts research and model demonstrations, disseminates educational materials, and responds to requests for information. Activities of The Boggs Center are guided by our Consumer Advisory Council and partnerships with people with disabilities, families, state and community agencies, and policy makers.

Application Information

Applications for the long-term Interdisciplinary Traineeship should be submitted by August for the following academic year.

Applications for the Intermediate Traineeship are accepted on a rolling basis, but should be submitted at least two months before the desired start date to allow adequate time for University and Human Resources processing.

Applications are available online at: http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/boggscenter/student/interdisciplinary_traineeship.html

For questions or more information on the Interdisciplinary Traineeship, please contact:

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This brochure was developed by 2012-2013 Interdisciplinary Trainees, Susan Ellien, Eric Hedges, and Naomie Chandler.
The Boggs Center Interdisciplinary Traineeship in Developmental Disabilities

Available Traineeship Opportunities

The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, New Jersey’s University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service, offers two types of traineeships that offer many of the same benefits, but have different hour requirements. Long-term interdisciplinary trainees complete 300 contact hours over the course of an academic year. Intermediate interdisciplinary trainees complete between 40 and 299 contact hours over the course of one or two semesters. Both traineeships follow an academic calendar.

Benefits of Participation

- A comprehensive introduction to the field of developmental disabilities.
- The opportunity to learn about policy development, program formation, research, and management skills.
- Experience that develops marketable skills such as research, project management, program evaluation, funding and grant development, and an understanding of how policy affects practice.
- Access to a variety of trainings and seminars for free or reduced costs.
- The possibility of academic credit through the student’s college or university (contingent upon approval by an academic advisor).
- Opportunity to work with professionals from other disciplines such as physicians, policy advocates, and politicians, as well as people with disabilities, families, and community leaders.
- Mentorship from highly qualified Boggs Center advisors.
- The possible provision of a stipend.

The traineeship is open to all undergraduate and graduate students, including but not limited to those in the following disciplines:

- Social Work
- Psychology
- General and Special Education
- Public Policy
- Public Health
- Nursing
- Pre-Med/ Medical
- Physical/Occupational Therapy
- Public Health
- Nursing
- Pre-Med/ Medical
- Physical/Occupational Therapy

Interdisciplinary Traineeship Requirements

- Completion of a project or activity in collaboration with Boggs Center faculty mentor, which will take the form of a presentation, publication, contribution to a curriculum or other educational material.
- Attendance at seminars and trainings, including the Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series (DDLS).
- Requirements may include visits to a variety of service settings, including Children’s Specialized Hospital, schedule permitting.
- Attendance at didactic sessions or informal meetings as listed in traineeship materials.
- A formal presentation of the work completed during the course of the traineeship.