
Music Therapy Internship Fact Sheet

INTERNSHIP DIRECTOR: Christina L. Watson, MT-BC
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FACILITY:

Star Center, Inc. is a non-profit technology center for individuals with disabilities. It is a non-residential facility that provides technology assistance and training for children and adults throughout West Tennessee. It is funded by County, State, and Federal grants, private and corporate donations, and United Way. The mission of the Star Center is to help any person with any disability to realize their potential. Its vision is to realize our own potential so that we can best serve others. Star provides an interactive learning environment where parents, children, adults and professionals in education, rehabilitation and health services can explore the many uses of computer and assistive technology for persons with disabilities.

LOCATION AND HOURS:

Star Center, Inc. is located in Jackson, TN, near Interstate 40, about midway between Memphis and Nashville. Jackson is a small city with a population of about 90,000.

The Star Center is open weekdays, closed for most national holidays, and takes a 2-week break for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Office hours are Mondays: 8am-5pm
 Tuesdays: 8am-6pm**
 Wednesdays: 8am-5pm

Thursdays: 8am-6pm**
Fridays: 8am-3pm

**Interns are only required to stay until 5pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
STAFF:

The Star Center, Inc. employs just over 40 on-site staff in 9 departments, including ABA Therapy, Art Therapy, Assistive Technology, Employment Services, Home Care, Learning Lab, Music Therapy, Speech Therapy, and Vision Services. Our team is led by our President, Dave Bratcher. These 40 staff serve all of West Tennessee and beyond: 21 counties, approximately 1.5 million residents. The majority of the staff employed full-time by the Star Center serve clients through a state grant funded by Vocational Rehabilitation. Services through this grant provide access for individuals with a disability to training and resources necessary to obtain, retain, and/or maintain employment. Many staff wear multiple hats and participate in interdepartmental collaboration to fully accomplish our mission with each client.

MUSIC THERAPY DEPARTMENT:

Staff: The Music Therapy Department has been in existence at the Star Center since 1987 and currently employs four full-time Board-Certified Music Therapists and generally introduces a new intern three times throughout the year. Though these dates are flexible, internships typically begin in January, March, and August. The department occupies a suite of offices and treatment rooms. Each intern has a separate workstation located in the entrance area of the office. Services often take place outside of the music therapy suite and off-site to best meet the needs of clients. Every music therapist owns a car and drives to sessions as needed. Interns are not required to have their own transportation to and from sessions, but it is preferred, as lack of transportation may inhibit clinical opportunities due to the schedule of our staff and the off-site clients we serve.

Populations: The Music Therapy Department has quite possibly the most varied caseload of all departments at the Star Center. MT-BCs at Star work with all ages in a variety of settings with both individual and group structures to address a range of goals. The current caseload of the 4 music therapists at Star include infants in the NICU, patients on the pediatric unit, preschool and school-aged children in local and area schools, children with hearing impairment, adolescents in juvenile court services, adolescents and adults in addiction recovery, children and adults on the autism spectrum, children and adults with intellectual disability, adolescents and young adults in vocational rehabilitation, university students with special needs, children and adults with cerebral palsy, older adults with dementia, and older adults in residential care. As is apparent, the music therapy department is committed to serving any and all individuals in Star Center's reach with need and interest.

MUSIC THERAPY INTERNSHIP:

Program: The Internship Program at the Star Center is a National Roster site and abides by the National Guidelines established by AMTA. As such, our internship requires 1040 working hours completed in a 6-month period. Pre-internship hours do not count toward total internship hours. Over the course of the internship, the intern will complete a variety of assignments which reflect continuing education opportunities a professional might count toward recertification. These include scholarly article reviews, book reviews, a weekly reflective journal entry, functional guitar and keyboard assessments, self-analysis of skill progression, a competency-based special project, and special trainings specific to techniques utilized frequently in sessions. Interns will also become responsible for every aspect of music therapy treatment, including observation, assessment, writing goals and objectives, documentation, treatment planning, intervention design, treatment implementation, transition, and planning for discharge from services. Each intern may request additional training in areas of growth throughout the internship. At the beginning of the internship, the supervisor will give an Internship Outline which specifies the

expectations and assignments and will review each of these requirements with the intern.

Provisions: Our facility offers a stipend of \$150.00 per month for 6 months. Stipends will not be extended past 6 months if an extension is required for the intern to fully meet competency standards. An agreement with a local university also offers optional housing for Star Center interns; rent is \$550 per month in a graduate student housing suite with 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a shared common area, full kitchen, laundry, and all utilities included (access to parking, mail, gym, and library facilities also included upon request). This housing is NOT a requirement but is an option. More information can be found at uu.edu/studentlife/residence-life/graduate/. Transportation will typically be provided from the Star Center to off-site sessions, but it is preferred that interns have access to their own transportation in the event that schedules require an intern to drive him/herself. Star Center makes every effort to accommodate transportation needs as warranted by special circumstances. In addition to these physical accommodations, Star offers frequent educational opportunities for staff which interns are sometime required, but always encouraged to attend. These include, but are not limited to: CPR, First Aid, Drug-free workplace, HIPAA, Cultural Diversity, Title VI, Standard Precautions. Interns are exposed on a daily basis to interdisciplinary collaboration. Interns also have the opportunity to sit in on team meetings related to client services, including music therapy department and staff meetings, and observe services in other departments at the Star Center.

Administrative Requirements: This facility requires a legal affiliation agreement with each university. Affiliation agreements must be in place prior to an intern's start date. In addition to a legal agreement, we also require each intern's academic advisor to send an internship agreement stating the intern's level of competency in the major competency categories upon completion of university courses and areas needing specific attention during internship. The intern, academic advisor, and internship director will complete and sign this agreement within the first two weeks of the internship. Due to state regulations, all interns must have a drug and TB

screening, and background check before providing service to clients. Each of these costs is covered by the Star Center at the beginning of internship.

MUSIC THERAPY INTERNSHIP APPLICATION:

The information in the application is very important in the process of selecting a qualified candidate for the Star Center music therapy internship program. Careful consideration is given to written answers, video submission, grades, letters of recommendation, practicum experience, and work-related experience. If additional space is needed to answer questions, an additional page may be added. If an applicant possesses additional qualifications not addressed in the application, these may be included on an additional page as well. The applicant is allowed and encouraged to ask questions of the Internship Director at any point throughout the application process. Email is the preferred method of communication; though, if the applicant does not have access to email, phone call is acceptable.

The video submission must showcase foundational musicianship in both singing and playing, with at least one song on guitar accompaniment. The submission should showcase the applicant's highest musicality in voice and accompaniment while demonstrating a strum pattern (picking is also acceptable) in at least one of the following keys: C, D, E, G, Em, Am. The video must not exceed 4 minutes total. Audio and visual components must both be of high enough quality that the applicant appears throughout the entire video with a clear view of his/her hands and all music can be clearly heard in the pitch and key in which it was recorded. Submissions may be made in hard-copy or electronic format, DVD, mp4, or as a YouTube video.

Once an application has been received with all completed materials included, the internship director will carefully review all submitted application materials. If an applicant's skills and abilities are appropriate for this facility, the Internship Director or Supervisor will contact the applicant to schedule an interview. Please allow 2 weeks for application review. The applicant will be responsible for providing his/her own transportation to and from the interview and accommodations will be at the applicant's expense.

All interviews are held on-site and will include a tour of the center and a short audition. A formal interview will take place with two Board-Certified Music Therapists, including the Internship Director, and will allow for a dedicated time to ask and answer questions. For the audition, the applicants will need to prepare 2 songs to sing and play. At least one of these songs must be on guitar. The applicant must demonstrate functional musicality (I, IV, and V chords) in the keys of C, D, E, G, Em, and Am, and be able to transpose between these keys. The applicant may be asked to transpose a prepared song on the spot to best assess this skill. A capo is not an appropriate method to facilitate transposition. If travel prevents the applicant from bringing a guitar, the Music Therapy Department has several to choose from. Throughout the rest of the day, the applicant will observe individual and group sessions, meet other Star Center Staff, and see the everyday operations of the Music Therapy Department. Questions are encouraged when sessions are not taking place.

Please contact the Internship Director with questions:

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