

A sampling of **ALTERNATIVE AND SPECIAL EDUCATION**
field placements available through
The Philadelphia Center:

Academy of Natural Sciences; Education Intern: The Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia was founded in 1812 and its collections feature over 17,000,000 specimens in all, including the first dinosaur skeleton discovered in North America, John James Audubon's bird specimens, and 226 plant specimens collected by Lewis and Clark. Museum Education Interns are introduced to the wide range of school/camp and public programming offered by the Academy of Natural Sciences. You become an active member of the Academy's teaching staff and master both informal teaching in various exhibit spaces (Dinosaur Hall, Outside-In and the Changing Exhibit Hall) as well as more formal classes offered by the Academy (grades K-8). Interns also have the opportunity to assist with a variety of other museum public programs: Safari-Overnight sleepovers, Academy-On-the-Go Outreach Programs, weekend special programming, Scout badge pin programs, and special collaborative community projects.

Hall Mercer; Therapeutic Day Intern: Hall-Mercer provides a wide variety of outpatient services for children, ages 3-18 who are challenged by mental health problems. To meet specific needs, the process begins with a thorough assessment of the nature of the problem and the cultural, social and economic make-up of the family. Once these factors are determined, Hall-Mercer can suggest and deliver a number of treatment and service approaches. These include several levels of case management services as well as individual, family, group, medication and art therapy. TAP (Therapeutic Activities Program) is a therapeutic nursery school to help children ages 3-5 play and work together under the guidance of a therapist and special education teachers. STEP is a Shared Time Education Program for the social, psychological and academic needs of children ages 6-10 who are experiencing mild to moderate emotional disturbances in a regular or special education classroom. SAP (Student Assistance Program) offers a middle- and high-school based service provided by Hall-Mercer to schools in South Philadelphia through a special relationship with the School District of Philadelphia. SAP is designed to identify and assist students having school-related problems resulting from depression or suicidal feelings. As part of the University of Pennsylvania Health System, Hall Mercer provides Mental Health Services for Children and Adults at Pennsylvania Hospital.

HMS School for Children with Cerebral Palsy; Special Education Intern: HMS School for Children with Cerebral Palsy serves children (ages 6 - 21) with

multiple disabilities resulting from cerebral palsy or traumatic brain injury. Experienced, compassionate staff and consultants provide strong, comprehensive individually structured interdisciplinary programs and services that include: Day and Residential Programs, Physical and Occupational Therapies, Special Education, Music Therapy, Speech/Language Therapy, Nursing and Nutrition Services, Medical Support, Therapeutic Recreation, and more. Many students use assistive technology. Prevocational/transition activities as well as functional academics.

Oasis; Art Department Assistant: Oasis is a not-for-profit artist-run studio and community center, which provides quality of life services for people who have been marginalized by chronic homelessness, mental retardation and mental illness. They aim to rebuild lives of dignity through artistic programming, which helps people express themselves and reintegrate into the larger community. Oasis assists, supports, and encourages each individual to set and obtain goals, develop life skills, and to strive for his or her fullest human potential. The intern may be responsible for assisting in group art classes, teaching classes, interviewing students, curating art shows, helping participants develop life skills, and increasing overall quality of life for program participants.

Variety; Special Education Intern: Variety - The Children's Charity of Greater Philadelphia has been serving children with disabilities since 1935. Our programs and services are designed to best address the children's physical, social, medical, educational, and recreational needs without regards to economic status, race, creed, gender, or type of disability. Variety serves children between birth and 18 with temporary and/or permanent disabilities resulting from injury, illness, or congenital conditions.

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