

OASIS Direct Client Service Internship Program Overview

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About OASIS, Inc.

OASIS, Inc. is excited to provide students the chance to complete student internships with our agency! Founded in 1978, OASIS, Inc. (Opposing Abuse with Service, Information, and Shelter) is dedicated to ending domestic violence and sexual assault in Watauga and Avery Counties, North Carolina. OASIS works toward this mission following an empowerment model, providing information and resources while always supporting the choices our clients make. All of our services are free and confidential. OASIS provides services to all victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, and we strive to provide the best services possible.

We have an amazing team of staff that work towards the same mission and vision in different ways. As an intern with OASIS, you have the opportunity to shadow and learn from different professional fields and to engage in a variety of systems from education to housing to judicial to healthcare.

Internship Description & Objectives

Internships are defined by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) as: “a form of experiential learning that integrates knowledge and theory learned in the classroom with practical application and skills development in a professional setting. Internships give students the opportunity to gain valuable applied experience and make connections in professional fields they are considering for career paths; and give employers the opportunity to guide and evaluate talent.” In addition, an internship is a semester (fall, spring, summer) in duration, may or may not carry credit, may be paid or unpaid based on the Department of Labor criteria.

Students who apply for our internships will have a chance to shadow all professions available or delve into one or two of the specialty areas. We may also be able to discuss additional duties in coordination with the learning goals and objectives for the student’s major.

Duties of the intern will consist of but not limited to:

- Direct client services such as covering phones, crisis intervention, client meetings, childcare, judicial systems advocacy, medical advocacy, shelter & housing responses, client documentation, etc.
- Outreach and fundraising activities such as taking outreach materials to local businesses, creating social media posts, contact tables, community education presentations, etc.
- Primary prevention activities such as middle school educational classes, high school events, etc.
- Office duties such as filing, compiling data, organizing donations, taking out the recycling or trash, cleaning, etc.
- Errands such as checking the PO box, dropping off donations to Goodwill, grocery shopping, etc.
- Internship duties will vary according to each specific major and student interest.

Our internship program provides our interns with opportunities to work on their academic, professional, and personal development. We work with our interns to create intentional learning and skills building through training, experience, and supervision. Our goal is to provide the

knowledge and tools needed to be a successful and productive advocate as our interns move into their own professional careers.

Our internship program does not view our interns as free help. Our interns are not meant to replace a staff member and we are particularly mindful that we are prioritizing experiential learning by ensuring no more than 20% of internship time is spent on busy work. Our interns get the opportunity to learn and get a taste of what a professional position entail.

It is important to note that unfortunately at this time our internship positions are unpaid.

Preferred Skills for Internship Applicants:

Commitment to reliability and accountability

Strong willingness to learn and engage

Shows initiative and seeks opportunities

Good communication and interpersonal skills

Ability to handle multiple assignments and organize steady workflow

Maintain high levels of confidentiality of sensitive information

Ability to adapt to change of work environment and stay composed in crisis situations

Who Should Apply:

Both undergraduate and graduate level students are welcome to apply. This internship is likely to be of particular interest of students pursuing degrees in Social Work, Psychology, Sociology, Criminal Justice, Public Relations, Communications, etc.

At OASIS, we generally require our interns to commit to one-year internship term due to the required training requirements. Internship hours will vary based on the total required hours for student internships. Work will generally occur between the hours of 8:00 am- 5:00 pm; however, there are after-hour and weekend opportunities. Interns will be required to work in both of our service area counties; Avery and Watauga.

How to Apply:

Complete the online Internship Application on our website, www.oasisinc.org. You can check availability or when the application opens by following us on social media (Facebook or Instagram). Typically, the application opens in the February prior to the start of the next academic year and start of the internship.

The OASIS, Inc. Internship Coordinator is our Agency Operations Manager, Ariel C. Malec, who you can reach at amalec@oasisinc.org.

OASIS encourages potential applicants to speak with their university advisor, particularly if in the Social Work degree program. Candidates who are recommended by department advisors are prioritized through the interview process.