

Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network

<http://www.peacefulpaths.org>

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Overview & Mission: Peaceful Paths is the certified domestic violence center that serves survivors of domestic violence in Alachua, Bradford, and Union counties. Peaceful Paths provides a wide range of services including emergency shelter, 24-hour helpline, victim advocacy, children's programming, education and training, crisis counseling and support groups, community awareness and intervention, and violence prevention programs. Our mission is to promote relationships free of violence and control by providing a safe place to receive intervention, advocacy, and education services using prevention strategies and community partnerships.

Schedule Requirements: Interns set own schedule according to the amount of hours they are required to fulfill and the programs in which they are working. Interns keep track of hours using monthly in-house Volunteer Timesheets. Most internships require some reading and reflection on current practices in outreach work; time spent reading will count towards total hours. Interns working with support groups will need to conform to the group's schedule. All interns must attend the mandatory training, described below.

Prerequisites/Qualifications: The only qualifications required for our internship are knowledge about and interest in the issues our organization deals with; a good attitude and professional demeanor; and willingness to work. However, all interns must complete a state-mandated 24 hour advocate-training program, plus another 6 hours in-service training on-site. (Hours spent in training will count towards the internship.) Once trained, individuals will be certified by Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence as Advocates; certification is transferable to other domestic violence centers. Training will occur over several evenings and one or more weekend day; dates TBA. There is a \$50.00 fee to cover the cost of training.

What activities will the intern take part in, and how do they relate to Women's/Gender studies?

We have various outreach and shelter programs to suit a range of interests. They include: Child and Teen Program, Adult Programs, Shelter Advocate, ROAP (Restraining Order Assistance Program) Advocate, Thrift Store, or Administrative. Our internships are comprehensive and allow students to experience the ins and outs of serving the needs of victims and survivors of intimate partner violence and working with a community nonprofit organization.

Undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to apply. For more details on the programs above, please visit our website and use the drop down menus in the top boxes to browse the site.

Application Process: All prospective interns must complete the Peaceful Paths Volunteer Application on the next page. In addition, all prospective interns for the Violence Prevention Program must write a letter of application addressing the following questions:

1. What skills and expertise do you bring to the program
2. What skills or expertise do you wish to gain from the program
3. What are your future goals and how does this internship fit with that and
4. What do you identify as root causes of violence against women?

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