

**Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network: Education & Youth Internship**

<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.

**Number of Credits:** 1 credit = 3 hours per week = 45 hours per semester; 2 credits = 7 hours per week = 90 hours per semester; 3 credits = 10 hours per week = 135 hours per semester. Interns keep track of hours using monthly in-house volunteer timesheets.

**Schedule Requirements:** All internships require a 10-15 hour/week commitment, with a two-semester commitment preferred. All interns must attend the mandatory training, described below.

**Prerequisites/Qualifications:**

Interns must commit to at least 2 semesters unless alternate arrangements are agreed to by the center. Interns must volunteer either onsite or remotely for a minimum of 10 hours per week and meet other program specific responsibilities as assigned. Interns will provide academic documentation to program staff in advance. Every intern should have the ability to understand and adhere to all practices regarding basic confidentiality and safety as described by center staff. Interns will follow general professional guidelines regarding language, dress and demeanor as described in the provided handbook. Interns working with youth in any capacity must have a clear background report which may require valid state ID. Interns must be able to move about the offices and grounds at the various locations as responsibilities require and be able to perform some light to moderate lifting.

Interns working with youth independently for 10+ hours/week must have a level 2 background clearance with fingerprinting completed. This will be initiated by designated Peaceful Paths if applicable. Additionally, direct services interns will be expected to complete the 24-hour Core Competency Training and complete 6 hours of program training to complete certification for privileged advocate status.

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

Interns will complete various tasks as directed by center staff:

- Program support (assisting with donations, cleaning/organizing facilities, event support, marketing and social media support, providing childcare activities, community education tabling, etc.)

- Direct advocacy with program participants after appropriate training and certification (completing intakes, answering the help line, support group facilitation, violence prevention education, etc.)
  - Assist with facilitation of youth activities, support groups, educational presentations and general childcare
  - Report any suspected/witnessed child abuse or neglect to program staff or leadership staff if necessary
  - Complete the specific training program as provided by Youth Services and/or Education
- Advocates
- Complete other tasks as assigned by program staff

We serve survivors of all genders, with a majority of them identifying as women. We are a women-led organization, that operates from an empowerment model, with services being designed to increase safety, establish support, and create a path to self-sufficiency for survivors and their children.

**Application Process:** All prospective interns must complete the Peaceful Paths Volunteer Application on our website (<https://www.peacefulpaths.org/volunteerapplication>) and email their resume and cover letter to [volunteer@peacefulpaths.org](mailto:volunteer@peacefulpaths.org) . We would recommend applying 2-3 months before the start of the semester you wish to begin interning to give our team time to look over the application materials and perform interviews as appropriate.