



Assistance Dog Education Program and Training (ADEPT)
A partnership of UW-River Falls and Pawsitive Perspectives Assistance Dogs (PawPADs)

ADEPT Intern Description & Responsibilities

General Description:

The ADEPT internship program, unique within the UW system and nationwide, is distinct from traditional campus programs involving assistance dog puppy-raising experiences and training. ADEPT interns are provided professional training instruction and opportunities for application, as well as opportunities for broader collaboration within the industry and the community. In exchange, the internship requires a serious and dedicated commitment of time, patience and teamwork on the part of the student.

Designed for students with a serious interest in assistance dog training and placement, the ADEPT internship program is a multi-semester 2 credit opportunity through the internship program in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Science (CAFES). Students are provided with small group and individual professional training, guidance and learning opportunities that translate directly into employable training skill sets upon graduation.

Interns are responsible for the training, socialization and welfare of the ADEPT assistance dogs in-training. Activities and responsibilities include: high level socialization/public access training, obedience skills and task training such as retrieves, turning on lights, alerting to blood sugar changes and opening doors. Each student is responsible for the daily care, supervision, training, and sanitation of dogs involved in the program.

Number of open positions is dependent on housing availability for dogs. UWRF Residence Life currently does not allow the ADEPT program dogs to live in or train in campus housing.

Goals:

- Prepare assigned dog for potential placement as an assistance dog.
- Strive to build knowledge about the assistance dog industry and ethical/legal aspects involved.
- Develop life skills through working as a team for a greater cause.
- Become advocates for positive reinforcement training, legitimate assistance dogs in public and people with disabilities.

Baseline requirements for the application:

- completion of 30 credits prior to internship enrollment (CAFES internship policy)
- good academic standing (CAFES internship policy)
- minimum of a 2-semester commitment with evaluation after each semester to allow continuation

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Internship requirements during participation:

- Attendance at multi-day training camp at the training center in Lakeville, MN in August
- Ability to attend weekly ADEPT class – Wednesdays 6p-9p
- Enroll in 2 ADEPT internship credits (see attached internship credit policy)
- Have completed 30 credits prior to internship
- Demonstration of working well under stress with team members,
- Agree to abide by the policies and training methodology while enrolled in the internship
- Fundraising and PR opportunities are provided and *participation is required*.
- Students must be positive, enthusiastic team players with good people skills; be patient and genuinely interested in helping people and dogs.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Overall care and well-being of the dogs in the program, including feeding, watering, exercising, training, cleaning up after and grooming. This includes being responsible for the physical *and* emotional safety of the dogs.
- Follow the curriculum, instruction and protocol provided by PawPADs and UWRF Companion Animal program faculty. This includes attending all classes, completing all assignments and staying up-to-date on all training and dog-related documentation.
- Conduct formal, as well as informal, training activities with assigned dog, every day.
- Address inappropriate behavior as directed and report all behavioral issues to PawPADs and/or UWRF staff in a timely manner.
- Ask for help or direction when needed.
- Support the efforts of other trainers and be willing to work as a team for the good of the dog, the program and the future partner.
- Be minimally disruptive: dogs and trainers should not unduly disturb the daily functioning of activities on campus or out in public. It is recognized that dogs will bark or show behaviors that are undesirable as they are going through different stages of development and learning. Students will be instructed in ways to minimize the number of inappropriate incidents.
- Be sensitive to others' feelings about dogs, such as fears and/or allergies.
- Cleaning, organization and sanitation of all program areas and any area where the dog is or has been.
- Represent ADEPT in a pleasant, professional and knowledgeable manner at all times, particularly when addressing an access issue in public.

**Student Trainers may be removed from the program at any time if they are not representing the ADEPT program in a responsible manner or if they act in any manner that will endanger themselves, their assigned dog, other dogs, or any other person.*

For more information contact ADEPT@PawPADs.org

For an application go to PawPADs.org/ADEPT

CAFES Internship Information for ADEPT Applicants and Interns

Fall 2019-Spring 2020

Student Information

ADEPT is a 2-credit, two-semester internship that starts in Fall Semester and finishes in Spring Semester. Students may enroll in ANSC 270 in Year One (2 credits), ANSC 370 in Year Two (2 credits) and repeat ANSC 370 in Year Three (2 credits) for a total of 6 internship credits through ADEPT. **Note: Students other than Animal Science majors are advised to check with their academic advisor on credit limits in their specific major.*

Students should refer to the CAFES Internship website for specific details regarding internship forms and expectations: <https://www.uwrf.edu/CAFES/Internships/Students.cfm>

Once selected for entrance into ADEPT, students need to enroll in the CAFES internship for credit. Drs. Greco and Rausch will forward the list of accepted ADEPT applicants to the internship office in CAFES so that those students may begin the process of internship enrollment.

Per internship policy, students cannot operate within the structure of ADEPT (use ADEPT space, attend ADEPT classes) without enrollment in the internship.

If a student exceeds a credit load of 18 credits (including the internship credits), they must file an Excess Load Application through the Dean's Office of their major. If approved, they will be assessed a per-credit charge for each credit over 18 credits.