



ADEPT

Assistance Dog Education Program and Training
Pawsitive Perspectives Assistance Dogs (PawPADs)

ADEPT Intern Description & Responsibilities

General Description:

The ADEPT internship program is a unique, intensive, life-changing opportunity offered to UWRf students **of any major**. Students will learn life-skills through the training of an assistance dog for placement with a person with a disability while also learning about advocacy, ethics, the assistance dog industry and much more.

ADEPT interns are provided professional training instruction by PawPADs' staff with opportunities for application. Interns will participate in public outreach and advocacy activities as well as fundraising in order to support the ADEPT program and the assistance dog industry as a whole. PawPADs strives to provide a well-rounded experience for students beyond training our dogs - weekly meetings feature lessons on topics such as disability education, nonprofit management, service dog laws/ethics and canine enrichment. Upon graduation from the ADEPT program, interns will have gained both professional **and** personal skills that will be beneficial to them in the future.

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, or in the application of Animal Assisted Interventions in human services, the ADEPT internship program is a multi-semester, non-credit, experiential opportunity.

Interns are responsible for the training and socialization 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 off-campus housing availability for dogs. UWRf Residence Life 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 improve training skills.
- Become an ambassador for assistance dogs and people with disabilities.

Baseline requirements for the application:

- completion of 30 credits prior to start of internship
- minimum of a 2-semester commitment with evaluation after each semester to allow continuation

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
- Demonstration of working well under stress with team members,
- Agree to abide by the policies and training methodology while participating
- 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 staff. 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 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.

**ADEPT Interns 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