



## **Intern Applicant Information Sheet**

Thank you for your interest in an internship at Sound Starts Music. Below you will find information about our center and the process of applying.

### **Clinical Internship Director**

Mary Altom, MT-BC  
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### **Overview of Facility:**

Sound Starts Music Therapy was founded by Mary Altom, MT-BC in 2011 and currently employs three additional board certified music therapists.

Sound Starts Music Therapy is a private practice that provides groups and individual music therapy sessions as well as therapeutic music instruction in Frisco, Texas (a suburb of Dallas-Fort Worth), with most services taking place at our center. We also hold a few community contracts with local schools and assisted-living facilities.

Sound Starts Music Therapy primarily serves children with special needs and teens on the Autism spectrum or with intellectual disabilities. We also serve some older adults with dementia.

Frisco is one of the fastest growing cities in the U.S. and has a population of approximately 165,000. Frisco is home to several professional sports teams, IKEA, and ample shopping and dining opportunities. Additionally, all the amenities offered by the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex are just minutes away.

### **Sound Starts Philosophy:**

Sound Starts Music Therapy strives to provide quality music therapy in the Frisco and Collin County areas. All team music therapists have been highly trained both clinically and musically.

Sound Starts Music Therapy is a place where our clients can take the time they need to grow bright and strong through music.

Sound Starts Music Therapy is dedicated to client-centered treatment. We look at the needs of each individual and use the methods that will best help our client make progress toward therapeutic goals. If the client responds well to a highly structured behavioral cognitive approach, we use that. If the client responds well to an improvisational approach, we use that. We care about how we can best help each client succeed through music.

### **A Description of Services:**

Most music therapy services are designed for children with special needs. We primarily conduct individual sessions 30-60 minutes 1x per week for each client at our center. We also run some groups throughout the year including older adult and school groups that are 30-60 minutes in length.



A familiar opening and closing song is used each week to create rapport and structure. Specially designed music activities are used to address specific objectives. Objectives primarily address communication, social, motor, and cognitive domains.

### **Internship Experience Overview:**

Our interns can expect the following:

- Weekly meetings with your supervisor
- Ample opportunities to practice documentation and planning
- Ample hours of observation each week
- Experience with co-treatment
- Ample independent treatment experience
- An intern project related to starting a program or relationship in the community or at the center
- A case study
- Community presentations
- Observation opportunities with other music therapists throughout the community

No housing, meals or stipend are available at this time.

Intern must have a car and the appropriate insurance.

Liability insurance must be provided by the intern either by purchasing coverage through HPSO or by the intern's university.

### **Criteria for Consideration:**

Intern is expected to:

- sing on pitch with appropriate rhythm and volume
- accompany self on piano and guitar in a variety of keys (A, C, D, E, G) using a minimum of I, IV, V7, vi chords in each key
- compose simple original songs
- be comfortable with musical skills so that focus is on the client
- interact with team music therapists, directors, other professionals in a respectful and timely manner
- clearly articulate when asked "What is music therapy?"
- be on time to scheduled sessions
- complete basic session planning and implement planned or practiced music therapy strategies



### **Intern Expectations:**

If the intern violates any of the following he/she would be under consideration for termination:

- Violation of policies as set forth in the facilities in which Sound Starts contracts
- Any civil or criminal acts
- Working under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Violation of professional documents: AMTA Code of Professional Practice, AMTA Standards of Clinical Practice, AMTA code of ethics
- Solicitation of Sound Starts clients
- Acceptance of monetary gifts from Sound Starts clients
- Failure to deliver music therapy interventions to assigned clients.

The intern could be found in jeopardy of failing the internship for any of the following:

- Repeated tardiness to sessions, meetings or in services
- Noncompliance with administrative requirements (documentation, session planning etc.),
- Noncompliance with assigned projects
- Misrepresentation of self on intern application or during the interview
- Inability or unwillingness to work on areas of improvement as discussed with the CTD or MT-BC.

The CTD will keep the intern informed about any areas of concern prior to the 3 and 6 month evaluation. If it appears that the intern is in jeopardy of failing, the CTD will inform the student's academic advisor immediately. If the intern is unable to demonstrate improvement in the necessary areas, he/she will be considered at risk for failure and termination. Under extreme situations, such as poor health or family crisis, the intern may be considered for a temporary leave of absence with the approval of the academic advisor and the Clinical Training Directors Board.



### **Application Process:**

Again, thank you for your interest in the Sound Starts Music Therapy Internship.

1. If you would like to submit an application, please follow the link below:  
<https://goo.gl/forms/SDQVkdK3nHwi5IYz2>
2. Submit official transcripts
3. Submit 1 letter of recommendation authored by the Director of the Music Therapy Department.
4. Submit 1 letter of recommendation authored by a music therapy practicum supervisor.

Your application will not be considered complete until all necessary documents have been received.

### **Capacity and Due Dates:**

Sound Starts offers 4 clinical internships each year.  
Applications for internship will be due 6 months prior to start.

**January – June** (due no later than July 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous year).

**April – September** (due no later than October 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous year).

**July – December** (due no later than January 15<sup>th</sup>)

**October – March** (due no later than April 15<sup>th</sup>)

Occasionally, deadline extensions may occur in order to accommodate holiday or other event schedules.

The Internship Director will contact finalists to schedule a video call interview within one week following internship application deadline and will notify all interviewed finalists of decision no more than two weeks after interviews.

The the interview is last approximately 30 minutes. Interview conversation topics relate to the responses that the intern candidate provided on the Internship Application. The internship director will judge the candidate's spontaneity. Additionally, the candidate may pose quality questions not previously covered.