

UNITED SUPPORT NETWORK TRAINING PROGRAM APPLICATION

The United Support Network paraprofessional volunteers are trained through a mandatory three-credit course offered through the Department of Psychology. The course is entitled PSCH 386: Crisis Counseling Techniques I. Enrollment in this course is by permission of the instructor. To be considered, you will need to complete the enclosed application form. After receipt of your application, you will be contacted to schedule a 30-minute interview. This interview will provide an opportunity to help you assess your readiness to participate in the training program and to ask questions you may have about the program.

WHAT IS A PARAPROFESSIONAL?

UIC students training to be Paraprofessionals are interested in developing a knowledge base around providing emotional support and resources to others. They are expected to learn and adhere to some of the professional standards used by mental health professionals. They continue to be supervised by doctoral-level clinicians. **The United Support Network is sponsored by the UIC Counseling Center.** Paraprofessionals become part of the counseling center and actively assist operations through their work facilitating support groups. Paraprofessionals have a real opportunity to make a difference! As a paraprofessional volunteer, you will:

- Enjoy personal fulfillment from helping others and serving the community
- Meet, support, and connect with other UIC students
- Learn valuable information about health and psychological issues
- Learn how to provide support and assistance to others in need
- Gain experience which will enhance both employment opportunities and admission to graduate or professional programs.
- Become part of a team
- Expand networking opportunities

WHAT IS THE UNITED SUPPORT NETWORK?

United Support Network is a free and confidential peer-to-peer support network sponsored by the Counseling Center. United Support Network serves UIC students through provide peer led support groups as well as monthly social events. Our volunteers strive to help people help themselves and do so as objectively and non-judgmentally as possible.

Training includes experiential exercises designed to familiarize you with the emotional difficulties of our students, to listen to students and to help them explore their options, and increase your sensitivity to your own feelings in order to provide quality care to students.

After successfully completing training, volunteers work 2-4 hours weekly for a minimum of 1 semester. They are also expected to work at least one social event and attend staff meetings. Volunteers have found this work personally rewarding and consider this a rare and unique opportunity to gain invaluable skills and experience that assist them toward their future goals.

Contacts: Robert Ballantyne, Psy.D. (rballant@uic.edu)
UIC Counseling Center
Student Services Building – Suite 2010
T: (312) 996-3490

*****BEFORE TURNING IN THE APPLICATION*****

TEAR OFF THIS PAGE AND KEEP FOR REFERENCE

Application Form: United Support Network Paraprofessional Training Program

Applying to the Training Program is simple! Just fill in the requested information, and return the completed form in person or by mail to:

University of Illinois at Chicago Counseling Center
Suite 2010, Student Services Building M/C 333
1200 West Harrison
Chicago, IL 60607
Attention: United Support Network Application

The program coordinator will contact you in order to schedule the in-person interview. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the application procedure, please contact Robert Ballantyne, Ph.D. or Luis Salas, MSW.

Semester you wish to take the course:

_____ Spring Semester, year _____
_____ Fall Semester, year _____

Name: _____

University Identification Number: _____ (9-digit number in blue on your i-card)

Identified Gender: _____ M _____ F _____ Other Birthdate: _____ / _____ / _____
Month/Date / Year

Email Address: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Best Phone Number to Reach: _____ (Circle One : Cell Phone / Home Phone)

Academic Status: _____ Freshman _____ Sophomore _____ Junior _____ Senior _____ Graduate

Major(s): _____

Number of Credits you are taking this semester: _____ Current GPA: _____

Expected Graduation: _____ (Month) / _____ (Year)

Do you work? _____ No / _____ Yes (If "Yes": How many hours per week? _____)

May we contact you at work?: _____ No / _____ Yes (If "Yes": Work Phone Number: _____)

Have you taking following **Prerequisite Courses (Grade of "C" or above)?**

_____ : PSCH 210 (Theories of Personality)

Or

_____ : PSCH 231 (Community Psychology)

Or

_____ : PSCH 270 (Abnormal Psychology)

If you have not taken prerequisite courses but have equivalent experiences, please list them & explain:

Please answer the following questions as accurately and concisely as possible:

1) Why do you want to be a campus paraprofessional?

2) What skills could you contribute to effectively serve as a campus paraprofessional?

3) What experiences have you had (volunteer or otherwise) that demonstrate your concern for people and your ability to communicate? Please include dates.

4) What other academic or extracurricular commitments do you have or plan to have the semester you plan to do your paraprofessional volunteer work (the semester after you take the course)?

5) How would being a paraprofessional fit into your career or personal goals?

6) How did you find out about the UIC Campus Paraprofessional Program?

7) Please provide the name, phone number and relationship of two references who can speak about your qualifications for this program (i.e., professor, employer, clergy, friend, or family member).

| | Name | Contact info (e.g., Phone #) | Relationship |
|--------------|------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Reference 1: | | | |
| Reference 2: | | | |

8) Are you willing to make a time commitment of 2-4 hours per week the semester you do your volunteer work?

Yes No

9) Is there anything else you would like us to know in considering your application?

To help us avoid potential dual relationships or conflicting roles, if you would like to be considered to volunteer for United Support Network please also answer the following questions. This information will not be used to look up treatment records or to select/eliminate applicants, but rather to help us in assigning tasks to our current staff members.

Are you currently in psychotherapy or counseling at the UIC Counseling Center?

Yes No

Have you ever been in therapy in the past at the UIC Counseling Center?

Yes No

I affirm that all information submitted in this application is true. I understand that all information submitted will be considered and treated as confidential.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Applicants will be considered until the class is full.

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| <p>TEAR OFF THE FIRST PAGE FOR YOUR REFERENCE. TURN IN THE COMPLETED APPLICATION AT THE COUNSELING CENTER'S FRONT DESK. Suite 2010, Student Services Building, M/C 333</p> |
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