

**Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute (MPSI)**  
**Predoctoral Training Program Application 2019-2020**

**Application deadline: Friday, June 14, 2019**

The MPSI Pre-doctoral Training Program is open to a limited number of graduate student trainees, post-master's degree or equivalent, committed to excellence in research and a career focused on developmental science, especially in family and community settings.

**Benefits**

The Training Program provides a significant number of benefits, responsibilities and opportunities in an interdisciplinary research environment. Its apprentice-model focuses on essential experiences in research, education, and community engagement related to infant, child and adolescent development. The Training Program also provides students with structured professional development opportunities. Trainees are cultivated as junior colleagues and work closely with faculty research mentors in shared scholarly pursuits.

Specific benefits for trainees include:

- \$1,500 award per semester (students are permitted and encouraged to have other sources of funding)
- \$500 to participate/present research at a professional conference related to developmental science
- Eligible to apply for \$300 in Fall or Winter semesters to participate in a relevant scientific conference in which the student is the first and presenting author (matching award from advisor, graduate school, department, or another source is necessary for this award to be made)
- Advanced training and preparation for a research career, including:
  - o Focus on research publications and national presentations
  - o Opportunity to interact with nationally known experts
  - o Broad-based professional development
  - o Training in grant writing and publication

**Trainee Responsibilities and Expectations**

MPSI trainees will attend events at MPSI each Thursday from noon until 2:00 pm.

- Education
  - o Maintain solid academic progress in home department/school
  - o Develop MPSI Individual Development Plan and report progress

- Research
  - Be engaged actively in relevant research
  - Submit one peer-reviewed publication per year
  - Attend regular MPSI Research Colloquia (usually two per month)
  - Attend Writing Accountability Groups on Thursdays in which no Colloquia or Professional Development Seminars are scheduled.
  - Present at the annual MPSI/IOG *Lifespan Alliance Research Day*
  - Present research at a National or Regional conference.
- Professional Development
  - Attend the MPSI-IOG Professional Development series presentations
  - Participate actively in the MPSI Graduate Student Organization (GSO)
  - Participate in MPSI governance as a representative to monthly faculty meetings (this responsibility alternates among GSO members)
  - Participate in hosting scientific visitors to MPSI
- Community Engagement and Outreach
 

Participate in community-based activity relevant to research and education goals

## **Application Procedure**

The criteria for admission are:

- Completed master's degree or equivalent before Aug 2019 (preferred)
- Strong academic record
- Research experience and productivity
- Confirmed commitment and support of faculty mentor
- Sound scientific writing skills

### **Deadline for Applications is Friday, June 14th, 2019.**

Email a completed application to the Pre-doctoral Training Director (Dr. Julie Wargo Aikins, Julie.wargo.aikins@wayne.edu) by **June 14, 2019** for evaluation and selection. Decisions will be communicated by July 3, 2019. Trainees are enrolled in August for the following academic year.

**Application packages should be submitted as a single PDF file with a cover letter.** A letter of support from applicant's mentor may be submitted separately. Application package must include all of the following:

1. *Curriculum Vitae* (max 10 pages)
2. Wayne State University academic transcript

3. One-page personal statement of career goals related to infant, child, or adolescent development and multidisciplinary research interests
4. Letter of support / recommendation from proposed faculty mentor. If you have previously participated as a Trainee in the MPSI program, you are exempt from submitting a letter of support.
5. One sample of scientific writing (e.g., class paper or first-author published work)
6. Cover letter to include reasons for wanting to participate in the training program, and how it would advance your research career. If you have previously participated in MPSI events it is helpful to describe those activities (e.g., MPSI Research Colloquium series, MPSI/IOG Professional Development series, MPSI/IOG *Lifespan Alliance* Research Day, other MPSI activities).

Contact the Director of the MPSI Pre-doctoral Training Program, Dr. Julie Wargo Aikins, for more information. Email: [julie.wargo.aikins@wayne.edu](mailto:julie.wargo.aikins@wayne.edu)