What is iSHINE?

Interdisciplinary Support for High-Intensity Needs in Education (iSHINE) is a personnel preparation project at Appalachian State University funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs.

iSHINE supports preservice training of speech-language pathologists, reading specialists, and special educators with specialized training to serve K-12 students with disabilities who have “high-intensity” needs (i.e., multiple disabilities, significant cognitive disabilities, significant physical disabilities, significant sensory disabilities, significant autism, significant emotional disabilities, or significant learning disabilities who require intensive individualized interventions) as members of interdisciplinary teams in classrooms and school settings.

In addition to their regular graduate coursework, iSHINE scholars will participate in specialized interdisciplinary academic and field-based activities across two semesters. This includes a specialized course relating to literacy and challenging behavior, and two online seminars. Scholars will also complete a 20-hour interdisciplinary school-based practicum experience with students with disabilities who have high-intensity needs.

Who Should Apply?

Students who are fully admitted to the ASU graduate school for the 2020-2021 academic year are encouraged to apply. iSHINE is available to graduate students in Speech-Language Pathology, Special Education (general or adapted concentration) and Reading Education.

What are the Benefits of Participation?

iSHINE scholars will develop specialized knowledge and skills in serving K-12 students with disabilities in three areas:

1. focused instruction using multiple learning modalities in inclusive settings,
2. intensive individualized interventions in the areas of language and communication, assistive technology, literacy, and behavior management, and
3. translation of research-to-practice for evidence-based approaches to interdisciplinary service delivery

In addition, each iSHINE scholar will receive a stipend of $4,200 per semester and a full-time, in-state graduate tuition waiver, for two semesters (Fall 2020 – Spring 2021).

iSHINE scholars will also be eligible for travel funds of up to $1,000 to attend and present at state and national conferences.
What else should potential applicants know?

Graduate tuition waivers and stipends are considered forgivable loans as per the U.S. Department of Education. Forgivable loans can be repaid through training-related work whereby trainees perform full-time work related to their preparation in a setting serving children with special needs anywhere in the U.S. for a period of two years for every year of funding. Please visit the Personnel Development Program Data Collection System website (https://pdp.ed.gov/OSEP/Scholar) for additional information.

How can I find out more about iSHINE?

Contact any member of the iSHINE project faculty:

- Emily Lakey, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders: lakeyer@appstate.edu
- Aftynne E. Cheek, Ph.D., Department of Reading Education and Special Education: cheekae1@appstate.edu
- Dave Koppenhaver, Ph.D., Department of Reading Education and Special Education: koppenhaverd@appstate.edu
- Chris Van Loan, Ph.D., Department of Reading Education and Special Education vanloancl@appstate.edu
- Tonya Moore, MA, iSHINE Project Coordinator: mooretr1@appstate.edu

How can I apply?

Students accepted to the graduate program in Speech-Language Pathology:
- Email completed iSHINE application to Dr. Lakey: lakeyer@appstate.edu

Students accepted to the graduate program in Special Education or Reading Education:
- Email completed iSHINE application to Dr. Cheek: cheekae1@appstate.edu
Application Process for Participation in iSHINE

Interested students admitted to the graduate program in Speech-Language Pathology, Special Education or Reading Education at Appalachian State University are invited to submit an application for an iSHINE traineeship. Priority consideration will be given to applications received by April 15, 2020.

Applications should include a resume (including contact information for two professional references) and three brief essays in response to the following queries. Essay responses should be no more than 1 page each, formatted as follows: single-spaced, 1” margins, Times New Roman font.

Name: ___________________________     Date: _____________

1. Describe your own experiences or interests that draw you to this training project. Why are you interested in iSHINE?

2. SLPs, reading specialists and special educators play an important role in school-based services for students with high-intensity needs. Identify a question or concern that you feel should be studied or a program that could be developed that would enhance the quality of interdisciplinary intervention/service delivery for children with high-intensity needs. Provide a rationale for the importance of your identified topic and the benefits that could result from the study or model project.

3. Participation in iSHINE prepares you for employment in a school or other agency that serves children with high-intensity special needs. How does this preparation align with your ideal job after graduation?