

Music Therapy Internship
Fact Sheet

The people we support

In 1897, Miss Laura Baker started “The School for Nervous and Backward Children” in Minneapolis, dedicated to the idea that people with disabilities could be educated and become productive community members. A year later, she relocated to Northfield and eventually renamed it “Laura Baker School.” Music and the arts were always an important component of Miss Baker’s approach.

Music therapy has a long history at Laura Baker Services Association (LBSA), with the establishment of a music therapy internship program back in 1976. Today, music therapy services are provided for adults and children with developmental disabilities and mental health issues, and are contracted to a diverse community population (developmental disabilities, dementia, medical/rehab, and hospice) in various settings (individual homes, long term care organizations, residential facilities, and hospital).



Music therapy intern qualifications

- ♪ Qualified candidates are those pursuing a music therapy degree accredited through the American Music Therapy Association.
- ♪ Applicants must have the ability to demonstrate the following skills:
 - Accompany self and group in at least 4 keys and transpose I-IV-V-I songs as needed on the piano, guitar, and on at least one other chordal instrument,
 - Good group leading skills in terms of vocal quality and the ability to accompany self,
 - Familiarity with a wide range in repertoire representative of many genres;
 - An interest in working with a variety of ages and populations;
 - Excellent verbal/written communication skills; and
 - Maturity for working with people who may exhibit challenging or unexpected behaviors.



Students must be physically able to move, carry, and transport equipment to/from various sites. Laura Baker Services also requires (and provides) a criminal background check and Mantoux test before the internship can begin.

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(Intern Qualifications, continued)

- ♪ Candidates are asked to submit a resume, three letters of recommendation, transcripts, a CD/DVD excerpt demonstrating musical skills (please do not include client information of any kind per AMTA policy), and provide a written response to five essay questions. An interview, preferably in person (unless other arrangements are made), is also part of the application process. *Please visit the music therapy page at www.laurabaker.org for all application details.*
- ♪ An affiliation agreement between LBSA and the academic site is not required.

The music therapy internship experience

- ♪ Music therapy interns will have the opportunity to work in a variety of settings, including private school, on-campus group homes, residential homes, and contracted settings which include long term care, private homes, and sites where hospice patients may be residing (i.e. hospital, home, or nursing facility). Due to the times clients are available, the student intern will be asked to be flexible with some weekend/evening hours, though most work will occur between 9am-5:30pm on weekdays. Interns will have the opportunity to lead individual and group music therapy sessions and experience drumming groups, art/music collaborations, adult choir, adaptive lessons, and a summer creative arts camp for children with special needs. The intern may also be asked to assist with special events at LBSA when clients are involved in music therapy-related efforts such as the annual LBSA Gala, staff appreciation dinner, or holiday gatherings. Musical, clinical, and professional skills will be evaluated on an ongoing basis during the 6 month internship through observations, feedback, and skill building opportunities.
- ♪ The intern will work directly with professional staff including the music therapist, artist-in-residence, school staff, QMRP's, and (in the case of contract work) recreation therapists, social workers, and nursing staff. LBSA currently has several other internship opportunities in areas such as Family Support Services, Marketing/Community Relations, and Behavior Analyst.
- ♪ There are many professional development opportunities that occur onsite, such as sensory integration, behavior management, dignity and respect, and CPR/First Aid.
- ♪ LBSA provides liability insurance and one free meal per work day for its full time music therapy interns. Transportation is helpful, but not required. Neither stipend nor housing is available to our interns.
- ♪ Because part of the Internship Director's position is based on contracted hours, it is possible but not likely that hours could be decreased at some point during the student's internship. If this occurs, the intern would have the option to include off-site visits into his/her internship experience (no more than 10% of required hours), and/or extend the length of the internship to meet necessary hours. Both scenarios would be discussed and agreed upon between the intern and the internship director.

Laura Baker Services is situated in the beautiful and historical town of Northfield, MN, 40 miles south of the Twin Cities area. St. Olaf and Carleton Colleges are also located in Northfield, offering many cultural and educational programs that are open to the public.

For more information, please visit our website, www.laurabaker.org , or contact:

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