



# Visiting Extension Specialist, Integrated Health Disparities Mental Health

## WE TRANSFORM LIVES

Everything we do is designed to improve the quality of life of the people in the state of Illinois, across the nation, and around the world. We discover, develop, translate, and disseminate knowledge to address societal concerns and train the next generation of experts and leaders in a way that empowers them to expand the boundaries of science to higher levels of understanding and influence.

**Be a part of our story.** Through learning partnerships that extend knowledge and change lives, University of Illinois Extension provides educational programs aimed at making life better, healthier, safer, and more profitable for individuals and their communities. Illinois Extension has operated continuously for more than 100 years connecting the citizens of Illinois to their land-grant university by providing educational programming around the state. University of Illinois Extension is based in the College of ACES and works with all colleges and units of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The Visiting Extension Specialist, Integrated Health Disparities (Mental Health) serves as a full time, 12-month academic professional with primary responsibility for planning, developing, and implementing mental health education content (in-person and digital), curriculum, instructional materials, and other resources for University of Illinois Extension's integrated health education programs. This position is a member of the Integrated Health Disparities statewide team and supports the creation of instructional materials for statewide programming. State specialists are the backbone of Extension, providing research, evidence-based information, and programs on specific disciplines to our community and stakeholders. From authoring publications to providing resources for the community and stakeholders, this position will serve a critical role for Extension.

We are searching for an innovative and resilient mental health specialist to join our IHD team. In this role, the Specialist will complete community assessments, make programmatic plans, work with other health care professionals to develop community support plans, and conduct individual and/or group educational sessions. The Specialist is expected to provide a referral to a care provider and/or offer resources to health care providers for mental health crises when required. The successful mental health specialist will have a sound understanding of human psychology and the types of therapies used to treat mental disorders. Ideal candidates should be compassionate problem solvers who feel comfortable collaborating with other mental health and health care experts. The specialist will contribute to the advancement of Illinois' communities on the way to building partnerships, developing initiatives, and advocating for programming focused on mental health as a path to stronger public health and decrease health disparities.

The ideal candidate is adept at building and maintaining trust-based relationships, engaging stakeholders, and applying an equity lens towards transforming lives and communities. As such, we strongly encourage applications from candidates who foster and promote the values of diversity and inclusion.

One full-time position is available.

**Location: Urbana-Champaign Campus**

## Application Due

August 31, 2022

## Proposed Start Date

As soon as possible after the closing date

## Salary

Commensurate with experience and qualifications

## To Apply

Go To: <http://go.illinois.edu/1010352>

Log in to your account and upload a cover letter and resume

## More Information

Immigration sponsorship is not available for this position. The position is a temporary, full-time, benefits eligible, non-tenure academic professional position. The position may become non-visiting at a later time dependent upon funding and/or programmatic needs. Generous vacation and sick leave. State Universities Retirement System. Group health, dental, vision and life insurance.

This is a security-sensitive position. Comprehensive background checks, including but not limited to a criminal conviction information check, and a review of the Registered Sex Offender list, will be conducted.

## Curriculum and Content Development

- Conducts needs assessments, develops, and implements innovative and impactful curricula using advanced theories and technologies to enhance learner engagement, development, and retention.
- Designs and evaluates evidence-based mental health education programs that seek to promote emotional health and mental illness prevention, education tools or materials, and resources related to mental health-related conditions, emotional health, mental illness awareness, with social and emotional learning opportunities
- Develops and implements education plans for mental health-related problems (e.g., anxiety, depression, personality, and behavioral disorders, phobias, post-traumatic stress, and more) that Extension educators may deliver to residents of Illinois.
- Designs and develops learning materials in a variety of formats (scenario-based, problem-based, competency-based). This may include course revisions, activities, and assessments for online content.
- Develops effective and contemporary approaches to communicate with clientele. This may include constantly evolving electronic technologies (e.g., Twitter, blogs, e-learning, etc.).
- Writes and revises mental health-related courses, activities, and assessments for online content.
- Adapts curricula to meet the needs of professional providers in the field.
- Reviews and enhances existing content to ensure level appropriateness and consistency with learning objectives; ensures translation of curriculum materials for specific populations.
- Research educational best practices, instructional resources, instructional technologies, and multimedia hardware/software to support teaching and learning.
- Utilizes innovative organizational development and adult learning techniques and principles.
- Suggests and assists with implementing instructional technology for effective and efficient training delivery theory and online learning technologies.
- Collaborates with content teams, clinical staff, and subject matter experts to build, review, and revise content as needed to adapt to the emerging needs of the field.
- Identifies, locates, and curates resources to inform and support course content to meet field needs in the area of mental health.
- Uses research and evaluation findings to create innovative programs and make changes to existing programs in order to improve quality.
- Plans and conducts training for instructors to prepare to deliver newly developed curricula.
- Conducts all activities in accordance with the Civil Rights Act, Title IX, Rehabilitation, Americans with Disabilities Act, and the University of Illinois Extension Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity Plan.

## Project Management and Transfer of Training

- Works as part of a team in the execution of communication plans and projects, including assisting in the project and program coordination and execution, as appropriate.
- Serves as a culturally competent and effective team member and volunteers for leadership roles as appropriate.
- Manages projects from ideation to launch to measurement.
- Reports impacts to Assistant Dean/Program Leader for IHD as required.
- Assists with instructor preparedness and effectiveness and onsite learning instruction, as needed.
- Provides instructor feedback and coaching to improve the delivery of content.
- Develops instructor and course evaluations and analysis and reports.
- Meets deadlines, complies with all reporting deadlines and requirements (e.g., plans of work, activity and impact reporting, database entry, etc.), and adjusts to shifting priorities.

## Professional Development and Scholarship

- Maintains the competencies to develop and deliver relevant educational programming, and professional credentials with national and/or state credentialing authorities.
- Continually seeks professional development opportunities to enhance content and cultural competency in subject matter area.

*The University of Illinois conducts criminal background checks on all job candidates upon acceptance of a contingent offer. Convictions are not a bar to employment. The University of Illinois System requires candidates selected for hire to disclose any documented finding of sexual misconduct or sexual harassment and to authorize inquiries to current and former employers regarding findings of sexual misconduct or sexual harassment. For more information, visit [Policy on Consideration of Sexual Misconduct in Prior Employment](#). The University of Illinois must also comply with applicable federal export control laws and regulations and, as such, reserves the right to employ restricted party screening procedures for applicants.*

*As a qualifying federal contractor, the University of Illinois System uses [E-Verify](#) to verify [employment eligibility](#).*

*The University of Illinois is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action employer that recruits and hires qualified candidates without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin, disability or veteran status. For more information, visit <http://go.illinois.edu/EEO>.*

*University of Illinois faculty, staff and students are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. If you are not able to receive the vaccine for medical or religious reasons, you may seek approval for an exemption in accordance with applicable University processes.*

- Leads and cooperate in the conduct of applied research in mental health education programs that promote mental health and mental illness prevention, educational best practices, instructional resources, instructional technologies, and multimedia hardware/software to support teaching and learning.
- Establishes professional relationships and participates in campus-based partnerships that tie academic programs and research to complement Extension programming.
- Prepares and secures internal and external resources (grants) to enhance the development of innovative educational programs with potential for high impact; leads and completes funded projects. Cooperation with campus faculty is strongly encouraged in securing resources.
- Be an active member within a professional society(ies) to keep abreast of changes within the discipline.

#### Other Information

- Comply with all University of Illinois Extension Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity policies and guidelines in all aspects of Extension work; assist unit staff with data collection for Affirmative Action, Gender, and Targeted reports as needed.
- Assume additional related responsibilities to enhance the mission of the unit.
- Local, regional, and statewide travel required; personal transportation required.
- To perform the functions of this position, the employee will be required to perform work both within an office and outside in the communities that are served, and must have the capability to travel from one location to the other in a timely fashion. Employee is responsible for securing personal transportation. A valid driver's license is preferred. Some work will be required during evenings and/or weekends. When working, the employee may be exposed to a variety of environmental factors to include, but not limited to, hot or cold weather, exposure to noise and allergens, and uneven ground. In performing the functions of this position, the employee may be subjected to various mental and physical demands as well to include, but not limited to, independently traveling to and performing work at different locations, lifting and moving items that may occasionally weigh up to forty (40) pounds and frequently weigh up to twenty (20) pounds, and twisting, pushing and pulling movements. More detailed information regarding the functions of this position (including the physical, mental and environmental requirements of the position) may be obtained from Human Resources for the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) by contacting hr@aces.illinois.edu.

**Administrative Relationship:** The Visiting Extension Specialist is administratively responsible to the Assistant Dean, Integrated Health Disparities.

#### Qualifications

##### Required:

- Master's degree in Psychology, Social Work, Counseling, or a related discipline with experience in a field relevant to the programmatic responsibilities in psychology, mental health, community psychology, community health promotion, mental health education, from an accredited university. Candidates with a Master's degree in progress may be considered for interviews, but degree must be completed by hire date.
- At least two years of demonstrated work experience in the area of programming and service delivery, working with curriculum development, instructional design teams, and training delivery; including youth and adult education with hybrid education models; evidence of the ability to be an effective educator and mentor.

##### Preferred:

- Earned doctorate degree (Ph.D. or D. Sci.) in a field relevant to the programmatic responsibilities in psychology, mental health, community psychology, community health promotion, mental health education, or a closely related field from an accredited university.

#### Environmental Demands:

To perform the functions of this position, the employee will be required to perform work both within an office and outside in the communities that are served, and must have the capability to travel from one location to the other in a timely fashion. Employee is responsible for securing personal transportation. A valid driver's license is required. Some work will be required during evenings and/or weekends. When working, the employee may be exposed to a variety of environmental factors to include, but not limited to, hot or cold weather, exposure to noise and allergens, and uneven ground. In performing the functions of this position, the employee may be subjected to various mental and physical demands as well to include, but not limited to, independently traveling to and performing work at different locations, lifting and moving items that may occasionally weigh up to forty (40) pounds and frequently weigh up to twenty (20) pounds, and twisting, pushing and pulling movements. More detailed information regarding the functions of this position (including the physical, mental and environmental requirements of the position) may be obtained from Human Resources for the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) by contacting hr@aces.illinois.edu.

- Five years of experience working in a mental health care setting is preferred with community service delivery or community-based education and the programmatic responsibilities in mental health education, or a related discipline with diverse population groups.
- Ideal candidates will also have successful experiences in coalition and partnership building, community and organizational facilitation, community planning, non-profit management, community economic development, local government, community and economic data analysis, leadership development, and conflict-resolution.
- Certified credentials related to the field, such as Certified Mental Health Professional (CMHP) or similar credential Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) or related discipline training certification.
- Certified in First Aid Mental Health training or ability to acquire it within a year of employment.

#### Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Ability to effectively work with people from different cultural backgrounds, including those associated with race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, socioeconomic status, age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, and other aspects of human diversity. Ability to liaison with healthcare providers, families, caregivers, social workers, community members, and teachers, as required. Ability to observe the appropriate workplace health and safety guidelines at all times. Knowledge of integrated health disparities impacts and outcomes, adult learning theory. Expertise in quality data collection, evaluation, and reporting. Strong interpersonal, observational, and problem-solving skills, as well as resilience and sound judgment. Ability to build and maintain professional relationships and effective partnerships. Ability to communicate effectively using a variety of methods and technology. Excellent written and verbal English communication, analytical, interpersonal, and organizational skills. Proficiency in educational and technical writing. Excellent skills in digital and online creative platforms and technology. Strong interpersonal skills and ability to work well with groups. Self-motivated and able to work semi-independently. Ability to work flexible hours and be self-directing. Sound understanding of various therapy types, such as cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT), Gestalt therapy, multimodal therapy, and others, English/Spanish bilingual communication skills and/or knowledge of regional dialects (proficiency in oral and written Spanish), evidence of the ability to conduct community-based participatory research and apply research results to real-world situations, familiarity with the national Extension system and/or University of Illinois Extension, and a basic understanding of community-, organizational-, and system-level factors that affect health outcomes and contribute to health disparities is preferred.

#### Application Procedure:

To apply, go to <https://go.illinois.edu/1010352>. Resume dates submitted must be in month/year format and employment history, at a minimum, should include all work dating back to the completion of your undergraduate degree. Positions that were less than full-time/100% must be noted as being part-time. Transcripts may be requested at a later date. To receive full consideration, all requested application materials must be submitted via the online system by the close date of **August 31, 2022**.

For further information about the position please contact Search Chair Amanda Cole at [amandac@illinois.edu](mailto:amandac@illinois.edu). For technical assistance with the online application process, please email [jobs@illinois.edu](mailto:jobs@illinois.edu).

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