



Dyslexia Center of Austin

**Application for the 2020
Dyslexia Therapist Training Program for Austin ISD Teachers
June 1—19, 2020**

**Please retain a copy of all pages of this application for your records.
Application Deadline—March 1, 2020**

Email your completed application and letters of recommendation to Kelly O’Mullan at:
kelly@dyslexiacenterofaustin.org

Mail an official copy of your college transcript(s) to:

Dyslexia Center of Austin
7401 W. Slaughter Lane #5061
Austin, TX 78739

Training Location

Joslin Elementary
4500 Manchaca Road
Portable 5A
Austin, TX 78745

Dyslexia Therapist Training Program

The Dyslexia Therapist Training Program is a 2-year multisensory, structured language training curriculum for individuals who have already completed a 4-year degree from an accredited university and are interested in being Certified Academic Language Therapists.

This comprehensive program uses *Take Flight: A Comprehensive Intervention for Students with Dyslexia (Take Flight)*, a two-year curriculum written by the staff of the Luke Waites Center for Dyslexia and Learning Disorders at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. *Take Flight* addresses the five components of effective reading instruction identified by the National Reading Panel’s research and is a comprehensive Tier III intervention for students with dyslexia ages 7 and up.

Dyslexia Center of Austin’s Dyslexia Therapist Training Program meets the International Dyslexia Association’s Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading, Texas licensure requirements, and criteria for membership in the Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA). The Dyslexia Center of Austin is accredited by the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC).

Certification and Licensing

Graduates of the Dyslexia Therapist Training Program will receive a certificate of completion from the Dyslexia Center of Austin with the title of Dyslexia Therapist and be eligible to sit for the Alliance National Registration Exam administered by the Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA) to become Certified Academic Language Therapists (CALTs). Graduates with advanced degrees in education and certain related fields may be eligible to apply to become a Licensed Dyslexia Therapist, as defined by Texas HB 461 (2009 Session of the Texas Legislature).

Program Overview

- Extensive knowledge of the characteristics of dyslexia and related disorders
- Understanding of the educational identification process for dyslexia
- Curriculum instruction using *Take Flight*
- Classroom strategies and techniques used for students with dyslexia
- Informational sessions for parents and teachers focusing on identification, accommodations, related disorders, and a *Take Flight* curriculum overview

Graduate-Level Instruction, Clinical Training, and Supervised Instruction in:

- Characteristics and educational identification of dyslexia
- Multisensory approach to teaching phonological awareness leading to sound/symbol correspondence for reading and spelling, including phonemic awareness, onset and rime, rhyme recognition and production, alliteration, segmentation, manipulation, blending, etc.
- Structured, intensive, phonetic approach to teaching reading, including phonemic awareness, decoding, sound/symbol relationships, reading automaticity, reading rate, prosody, orthographic patterns, syllable division, and morphology.
- A multisensory, process-oriented approach to teaching cognitive spelling which emphasizes phonemic awareness, sound/symbol relationship, orthographic patterns, spelling generalizations, spelling formulas for derivatives, and dictation skills.
- Multisensory approach to word relationships through grammar, morphology, semantics, and syntax
- Analysis and strategies used for comprehension in expository and narrative texts using metacognitive techniques
- Sequential multisensory strategies designed for academic success of students with dyslexia.

Graduate-Level Credit

Graduates may receive up to fifteen (15) hours of graduate-level credit toward a Master of Education degree in Special Education, Specializing in Dyslexia through MSU Texas in Wichita Falls, TX. For more information, please contact Mary Wines, Director of Master of Education in Special Education Specializing in Dyslexia. Email: mary.wines@msutexas.edu. Phone: 940-397-4855.

1st Year Introductory Training Course

1. Academic Requirements

- **Introductory Summer Course**
 - June 1—19, 2020: Monday—Friday for three (3) consecutive weeks from 8:00am—5:00pm
- **Introductory Seminars**
 - Attend four (4) one-day seminars throughout the school year from 8:00am—5:00pm
 - Attend and complete one (1) approved professional conference related to dyslexia during the year

2. Clinical Teaching Requirements

- **Demonstration of Teaching Competency**
 - Submit five (5) video-taped demonstration lessons of a *Take Flight* group
 - Submit self-critiques of the demonstration lessons
 - All five (5) demonstration lessons must be completed and passed before May 31st to qualify for Advanced Training
 - Demonstration lessons are observed and evaluated by a member of the Dyslexia Therapist Training Staff with accompanying suggestions, critique, and evaluation for therapist-in-training
 - One-on-one consultations with the Dyslexia Therapist Training Staff

3. Supervised Teaching Requirements

- **Teaching Experience**
 - Teach at least three (3) *Take Flight* groups consisting of 1-5 students per group
 - A minimum of 45-minutes per group, five (5) days a week, OR minimum of 60-minutes per group, four (4) days a week
 - Must reach *Take Flight* Lesson 65 with at least one group to qualify for Advanced Training
- **Progress Reports**
 - Prepare and submit periodic Progress Reports documenting supervised teaching situations and clinical training hours

2nd Year Advanced Training Course

1. Academic Requirements

- **Advanced Summer Course**
 - Attend five (5) week days, Monday—Friday for one (1) week from 8:00am—5:00pm
- **Advanced Seminars**
 - Attend four (4) one-day seminars throughout the school year from 8:00am—5:00pm
 - Attend and complete one (1) approved professional conference related to dyslexia during the year

2. Clinical Teaching Requirements

- **Demonstration of Teaching Competency**
 - Submit five (5) video-taped demonstration lessons of a 2nd year *Take Flight* group
 - Submit self-critiques of the demonstration lessons
 - Demonstration lessons are observed and evaluated by a member of the Dyslexia Therapist Training Staff with accompanying suggestions, critique, and evaluation for therapist-in-training
 - One-on-one consultations with the Dyslexia Therapist Training Staff

3. Supervised Teaching Requirements

- **Teaching Experience**
 - Continue to maintain at least three (3) *Take Flight* groups consisting of 1-5 students per group
 - A minimum of 45-minutes per group, five (5) days a week, OR minimum of 60-minutes per group, four (4) days a week
- **Progress Reports**
 - Prepare and submit periodic Progress Reports documenting supervised teaching situations and clinical training hours

Demonstration Lessons

Ten demonstration lessons are required for certification, five (5) completed during the first year and five (5) completed in the second year. These lessons should be videotaped and sent along with your lesson plan, self-evaluation, and comments/question sheet in one package to the Dyslexia Therapist Training Staff.

A score of 85 or above is needed to pass. A demo with a score of 85 or below must be redone. Tapes must be received on or before the due date. **For each day late, 1 point will be taken off the demonstration score.** Please make arrangements with the staff if you are unable to get your tape in on time.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Attendance requirements are based on the standards set forth by the accrediting organization. You **MUST** make arrangements in advance with the training staff for absence approval and procedures for making up the instruction. You will be responsible for videotaping the class or seminar and complete a full write up on the training content. If you do not obtain absence approval, you may be exited from the program.

Class Expectations

Please be aware that the Dyslexia Therapist Training is equivalent to fifteen (15) hours of graduate level coursework. During the Introductory Course and Advanced Course, trainees will receive homework assignments each day. Trainees will be expected to read 2-3 articles or chapters and write one (1) page reports summarizing each article or chapter. All reports are due the next morning. Throughout the first year of training, trainees will also be required to read five (5) books from an approved book list and write a one (1) page report on each book.

Extended Training

At the completion of all course work, if you have failed to meet the criteria of 700 clinical teaching hours, you will be required to continue supervised teaching and recording clinical teaching hours until this requirement is satisfied. If you have not received a score of 85 or higher in demonstration lessons, additional demonstrations may be required and attendance of additional seminars and lectures may also be required. Dyslexia Center of Austin reserves the right to charge trainees an additional fee in such circumstances. Progress will be monitored regularly until all requirements are completed.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Dyslexia Center of Austin does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to, hiring and firing of staff, selection of volunteers and vendors, and provision of services. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our staff, clients, volunteers, subcontractors, vendors, and clients.

Accommodations

If any accommodations (under ADA) are needed for you to be successful in the two-year training program, you must submit them in writing with appropriate documentation at least 2 weeks prior to the beginning of the Introductory Course.

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Application Checklist

- _____ Signed Acknowledgement Form

- _____ Completed Application

- _____ School Support Form Signed by Your Principal

- _____ Professional Letter of Recommendation from Your Principal

- _____ Professional Letter of Recommendation from Additional Reference

- _____ Official Copy of Your College Transcript(s)

- _____ Schedule an Interview with the Dyslexia Center of Austin

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Acknowledgement Form

I acknowledge that I have received and have read the policies contained in this packet, and I agree to comply with such policies and practices as a condition of my participation in the Dyslexia Therapist Training Program at the Dyslexia Center of Austin.

Photo Release

I grant to Dyslexia Center of Austin the right to take photographs, videotape, or digital recordings of me and my property and I authorize Dyslexia Center of Austin, its assigns and transferees to copyright, use and publish such photos in print and/or electronically. I agree that Dyslexia Center of Austin may edit, alter, copy, exhibit, publish or distribute the photographs and may use such photographs of me with or without my name and for any lawful purpose including, for example, such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising, and Web content and I waive any right to financial or other remuneration arising or related to the use of the photographs.

Trainee—Print Name

Trainee—Signature

Date

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Application

Personal Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, and Zip Code: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Work Email Address: _____

Home Email Address: _____

Educational and Professional Information

Degree, School, Years Attended—List most recent first. Include copies of all transcripts.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Teaching Experience—List most recent experience first.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Professional Certifications/Affiliations—List most recent first.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Current Teaching Position

Title: _____ Grade Level: _____

School: _____

District: _____

Administrator: _____

Association: _____

Phone Number: _____

Professional References—Provide two (2) professional letters of recommendation. One must be from your Principal. Please include their name, address, phone number, email address, and association.

1. _____

2. _____

Please briefly answer the following questions—You may attach additional pages, if needed.

1. Why are you interested in applying for this training?

2. To date, what experience have you had with dyslexia (education, professional, or personal)?

3. How do you intend to utilize the skills of a Dyslexia Therapist?

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School Support Form

PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Trainee must hold the position of **Instructional Interventionist, Reading Specialist, or Special Education Teacher**. Classroom teachers will not be considered for the program.
- Allow trainee to instruct a minimum of **three (3) Take Flight groups of 1-5 students per group**
 - Two (2) consecutive school years
 - 45-minute sessions to occur five days a week **OR** 60-minute sessions to occur four days a week
 - Students may not be added to a group once instruction begins, as this is a sequential, cumulative program. However, it is possible for a new group to be formed during the year.
- Provide an appropriate setting for *Take Flight* instruction
 - Enclosed teaching space dedicated to instruction—not shared during instruction times
 - Large magnetic white board
- Allow trainee to be absent for five (5) days each school year during training with no financial penalty
 - Four (4) day-long seminars. Seminar attendance is **mandatory**.
 - One (1) approved professional conference related to dyslexia
- Minimize trainee’s additional school responsibilities during the two (2) year training period

TRAINEE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Teach a minimum of **three (3) Take Flight groups of 1-5 students per group for two (2) consecutive school years in 45-minute sessions to occur five days a week or 60-minute sessions to occur four days a week**.
- Attend and actively participate in all **mandatory** training—Summer Courses and Seminars
- Attend two (2) approved professional conference related to dyslexia—one (1) per school year
- Submit and pass ten (10) taped demonstration lessons—five (5) per school year
- Submit periodic progress reports and student progress monitoring

Signing this document indicates to the Dyslexia Center of Austin that the Principal/School agrees to the requirements set forth in this document and agrees to the implementation of training requirements, independent of future administration changes.

Trainee’s Name: _____ School Name: _____

Principal’s Name: _____ Date: _____

Principal’s Signature: _____