SW interns will have the opportunity to observe the many programs and clinicians who provide services to the Children at MAC. Following CHOA orientation, they will, along with their supervisor be responsible for:

- Obtaining and writing bio-psycho-social histories using family interviews, and chart reviews and collateral information.
- Providing family and/or individual psychotherapy to children and families
- Participating and presenting cases in the multi-disciplinary team process
- Communicating with collateral contacts
- Research and referral of resources for families in need of other services
- Follow up and case management or advocacy as needed.
- Other tasks as assigned.
- Obtain knowledge of the Marcus Autism center and its programs and services.

The learning program for master’s level students includes, but is not limited instruction in the following areas: social policy, critical Thinking, Cultural and Ethnic awareness, practice with individuals, practice with families and groups, practice with organizations, outcomes and follow up, Ethics, Human Behavior and the Social Environment, Personal learning outcomes, Communication Skills and Evaluation of Practice.

Social policies and laws: The student will learn to identify social policy and law and how they affect children with the disabilities we treat, including autism, mental retardation, medical and genetic diagnoses and fetal alcohol syndrome.

Practice with individuals, families and groups includes individual and family therapy. Methods are examined in detail including psychosocial assessment, ongoing therapy, case management, creating a therapeutic relationship and follow up contacts with families. Therapy is used with children and parents to help them with behavior management, coping with their diagnoses, as well as working with the parents and children separately, when indicated, to help their adjustment. Appropriate referrals both internally and externally are made.

Behavior and the social environment are studied via readings and practice in the students’ assigned clinics. Additionally there are opportunities to learn from the multi-disciplinary team about different approaches to addressing children’s maladaptive behaviors and working with the child’s social and family environments. A resource list was developed by social work and is
provided on the internet for use by other clinicians. The student, the social worker and others maintain it and update it monthly.

**Economic and social justice issues** may involve how policies impact clients as well as advocacy. Psychosocial education is usually provided within counseling sessions to help parents learn how to advocate for their children by understanding and educating themselves regarding their child's disability or diagnosis vis a vis working with other agencies and organizations.

**Ethical issues** that arise during the internship and especially relating to confidentiality, i.e. HIPAA laws, and families is examined in depth.

**Critical thinking and problem solving** is used throughout this program helping students develop these skills in order to best treat the client population and is based on being current with research and best practice models.