

Aging Careers in Georgia



State-Level Opportunities for Interns

Positions will be filled on a “rolling admissions” basis. We require three weeks from the date of selection to process background checks.

Students, explore aging careers with the [Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services \(DAS\)](#). Selected candidates will participate in an unpaid DAS internship, learning about state-level aging administration through educational experiences and meaningful assignments involving issues research, consumer education, administration, and strategic planning. Examine trends in the aging and disability field, the structure of Georgia’s statewide network, and ways for you to prepare for a future career.

◆ **Program Dates:** Flexible

◆ **Location:** 2 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta 30303 (*No Free Parking Available • Accessible by MARTA*)

◆ **Days/Times:** Participants may intern at DAS, Monday-Friday. Days and times are negotiable.

◆ **Requirements:** Strong writing skills, research skills, proficiency in the use of Microsoft Word and Excel, good academic standing, demonstrated interest in issues involving older adults and people with disabilities; must be a graduate student or undergraduate junior or senior to apply

Pre-Application Process

Submit the following materials to CynthiaHaley.Dunn@dhs.ga.gov:

1. Cover Letter (*Answer the questions shown.*)
 - a. Why are you interested in exploring aging-services careers?
 - b. What experiences have you had with older adults or people with disabilities?
 - c. What do you hope to learn or do as a participant in the program?
2. Résumé
3. Description of your academic department’s (or instructor’s) requirements for internships

If your interest and experience are a potential match for our internship projects, you may be invited to formally apply and interview with DAS on a competitive basis. Candidates selected for program participation will be required to complete a criminal background check (at DAS’ expense).

◆ Frequently Asked Questions ◆

Are hands-on assignments available?

As Georgia’s state unit on aging, DAS focuses on planning, training, and technical assistance. If you would like to intern in a direct-service capacity with older adults, we can recommend several fine organizations that could benefit from your help.

Will participation help me to get a job at DAS?

No, your participation in an internship or volunteer assignment does not obligate DAS to provide you with future employment, special consideration for employment, or information about available job opportunities. If your performance is excellent, however, we would be glad to provide a reference upon request.

Where can I learn more about aging careers?

Explore our website at www.aging.ga.gov or visit “Careers in Aging,” developed by the Association of Gerontology in Higher Education: <https://www.aghe.org/images/aghe/ciaw/learnaboutcareersinaging.pdf>,

Sample Internship Opportunities

What does it take to be a DAS intern?

All internship candidates should have excellent oral and written communication skills, strong research skills, and proficiency in Microsoft Office. DAS' internship positions are most suitable for students with majors in gerontology, social work, public administration, public health, communications, sociology, and similar fields. In addition, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program seeks law students, and Adult Protective Services accepts students in criminology.

What can a DAS intern do?

This is a sampling of activities. Not all opportunities may be available each semester.

Livable Communities

The Livable Communities team is responsible for many programs authorized through the Older Americans Act. Work alongside aging specialists, strengthening and expanding services designed for older adults and caregivers. Contribute to areas such as policy development, transportation, older workers and employment, caregiving, senior hunger, wellness, housing, and mental health.

Adult Protective Services (APS)

Assist APS staff with efforts to protect vulnerable Georgians from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. APS records, substantiates, and investigates reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults and adults with disabilities. Cases may involve physical abuse; mental, emotional, or verbal abuse; sexual abuse; neglect; self-neglect; and/or financial exploitation. This challenging work helps vulnerable adults live with dignity and safety.

Access to Services (ATS)

The AtS Team is responsible for several programs, including the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) and GeorgiaCares. The ADRC focuses on programs and services that can either prevent or delay admission to a nursing home or help individuals transition from a nursing home back to the community. ADRC interns may contribute to areas such as data analysis, quality assurance and strategic planning. GeorgiaCares is the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for Georgia. Interns help increase older adults' access to unbiased Medicare education and assistance by contributing to outreach, partnership development, volunteer recruitment, and training efforts.

Georgia Alzheimer's and Related Dementias (GARD) State Plan

Join the team that implements the Georgia Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementias (GARD) State Plan. Tasks include coordinating and documenting meetings and assisting with projects within GARD work groups (Workforce Development; Service Delivery; Outreach & Partnerships; Policy; Healthcare, Research, & Data Collection; and Public Safety).

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCO)

Help LTCO reach more long-term care residents and advocate for their quality-of-life needs. LTCO accepts law students for legal internships (review of new or pending laws, drafting bills, etc.) and general interns for assistance with volunteer recruitment, training, and recognition.

Georgia Council on Aging

The Georgia Council on Aging is an independent affiliated organization.

Help advocate for the needs of older Georgians. Interns may assist with research on proposed policy issues (policy analysis, proposal development, and basic data gathering and analysis); coalition management (membership growth strategies to increase membership and member engagement with Coalition of Advocates for Georgia's Elderly), advocacy / communications (development of advocacy collateral materials, including gathering personal stories, creating infographics, and creating advocacy alerts), and event planning.