

## Job Posting: Summer Program Counselor-In-Residence

### About GSA

The Governor's School for the Arts (GSA) is a rigorous, innovative, and unique summer program that empowers the Commonwealth's next generation of creative leaders. The GSA summer program convenes a community of over 500+ high school rising juniors and seniors from across the state to live in residence for three weeks of intensive college-level training under the guidance of a faculty of professional teaching artists. The program emphasizes interdisciplinary collaboration, the impact that artist-citizens can make in their communities, and college/career pathways that leverage students' creative gifts. GSA's nine core areas of study are Creative Writing, Dance, Design, Drama, Film + Photography, Instrumental Music, Musical Theatre, Visual Art, and Vocal Music.

### About this position

Attending GSA can be an intense experience for students as they adjust to new surroundings, face a rigorous schedule, and engage with a supportive, diverse community of artists. Students are challenged to grow and expand their horizons, which can lead to both exciting opportunities and intimidating challenges. To fully support GSA students' emotional, social, and mental health during the summer program, an experienced, reliable, and accessible counselor is a vital member of the summer program leadership team.

### The GSA Counselor is an independent contractor who serves the following roles:

- Advises GSA Administration, Faculty, and Staff on a wide range of issues related to social, emotional, and mental health. This includes developing plans of action in response to student issues, and directly responding to those issues when/as necessary.
- Presents themselves as an accessible resource to students/staff/faculty and a member of the GSA community.
- Leads training for GSA Staff about supporting the emotional/social/mental health needs of students.

### The above roles can generally be broken down into the following responsibilities:

#### Pre-Program (March - June)

- Attend the spring faculty meeting at the host institution on the third Sunday of March.
- As needed, consult with GSA Administration on student policies, staff training design, etc.
- Have a significant presence during staff training 1<sup>st</sup> week of June; this includes leading training sessions for residential life staff, faculty, and teaching assistants on topics such as responding to student emotional/social/mental health needs (homesickness, anxiety, etc.), self-care, setting boundaries, etc.

## Summer Program (June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025)

- Live in residence at the host institution. Both sessions of the GSA 2025 summer program will be held on the University of Kentucky campus in Lexington, KY. Room and board are provided. (*Applicants who live near UK's campus and would prefer to live off campus will be considered.*)
- Provide 24-hour consultant and counseling services for the duration of the program. This can include response to emergencies.
- Attend daily leadership meetings to review student needs/issues, develop action plans in consultation with administration, and respond to student needs in a contextualized and timely manner.
- Maintain accessible relationships with all faculty/staff, including attendance at faculty and staff meetings.
- As needed, provide one-on-one consultation with individual faculty members, staff, students, and student guardians.
- Set up meetings with each art form at the beginning of the program to explain the role of the Counselor to students.
- Provide open workshops to students and staff throughout the program about mental/social/emotional health (i.e. how to deal with performance anxiety, how to destress and relax, etc.).

### **Important Dates of Note:**

- **Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025** - Spring Faculty Meeting
- **June 2<sup>nd</sup> – June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025** - GSA Staff Training Week
- **June 8<sup>th</sup> – June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025** - GSA Session 1
- **July 6<sup>th</sup> – July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025** - GSA Session 2

### **Information to consider**

Students are often in studio from 9:00 a.m. until as late as 10:00 p.m., meaning some student interaction takes place at mealtimes or late in the evening after studio. The GSA program operates seven days a week, although GSA Administration will work with the Counselor to determine their own plan for rest and self-care.

Applicants do not necessarily need to be available to work both sessions, but it is preferred.

### **Position requirements:**

- Master's degree in psychology, counseling or Social Work (or related field)
- Experience in counseling and mentoring youth
- Experience in crisis intervention or grief counseling

### **Desired experience and qualities include:**

- Knowledge or experience with programs for gifted and talented students
- Experience working with high school students
- Superior interpersonal and verbal communication skills
- Background and/or appreciation of the arts
- Understanding of adolescent development
- Knowledge of common psychological disorders and appropriate treatments

### **To apply**

Please submit a resume, reference list, and cover letter to Jason Brooks, Director of GSA. [Click here](#) to submit!