Undergraduate Research Assistantships and Theses  
Department of Psychology – East Carolina University  
Fall 2021

• Interested in gaining hands-on research experience with a faculty member in the Department of Psychology at East Carolina University?

• Our faculty members are engaged in a variety of active research programs that span a number of specializations, methodologies, populations, and designs. Undergraduate students are encouraged to become a part of this research by assisting faculty with new and ongoing projects—an experience valuable for students who are interesting in learning more about one or more areas of psychology in greater depth, becoming an informed consumer of research, and developing skills and abilities valued by employers and graduate schools.

• Undergraduate research assistants typically register for supervised course credit as an elective in psychology (e.g., PSYC 4501) in the semester or session that they are involved.

• Please review the following list of faculty who are accepting research assistants for Fall 2021.

• Afterwards, complete the online application by using the following web address: https://ecu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9ZGwaqTUXdiPpgq

• The early deadline for completing the application process is March 29th. The late deadline is April 19th.

• Information provided by interested students will be shared with faculty researchers after March 29th. Afterwards, interested faculty will begin inviting students for interviews.

• The link to the application will become inactive after the April 19th deadline, so please complete the process as soon as possible if you are interested. For more information, please visit https://www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/psyc/StudentResearch.cfm
List of Faculty Mentors
Please review the following list of faculty mentors and note your preferences.

DR. MICHAEL BAKER

Field of Specialization: Social Psychology

Description of Research Assistantship: Dr. Baker's research applies an evolutionary perspective to social and health psychology. His work examines the effects of fundamental social motives such as mate seeking, mate retention, self-preservation, affiliation, disease avoidance, and status motives on health-related behavioral outcomes. Behaviors of interest include exercise, food selection, risk-taking, and self-presentation in general.

Research assistants in Dr. Baker's laboratory typically contribute to this research by collecting relevant peer-reviewed articles and running participants through experimental protocols that are designed to measure or manipulate the aforementioned motives in order to increase the frequency with which health-related behaviors are performed.

Dr. Baker will consider students for research assistant positions (PSYC 4501). PSYC 4501 is a semester-length option, in which the student can gain research skills and work in a lab without a formal expectation of a final product. Dr. Baker is also open to considering proving early mentorship experiences for freshmen and/or sophomore students.
**DR. CHRISTYN DOLBIER**

**Field of Specialization:** Health Psychology

**Research Description:** I am looking for ambitious students interested in my area of research to join my research team in the Stress & Health Lab during the Fall 2021 semester.

**Description of projects:**
Currently, I am recruiting undergraduate research assistants to help with studies of mindfulness-based interventions with college students.

**Description of research assistantship:**
Research assistants (RAs) read research articles related to the project they are involved with, participate in weekly lab meetings, and assist with a variety of research tasks depending on the project and phase of the project (e.g., study document preparation; participant recruitment and retention; data collection, coding, entry and analysis; library research and literature reviews). Mentorship and training are provided by me and graduate students in our clinical health psychology doctoral program. Especially motivated and skilled RAs may have the opportunity to do independent research, assist with conference submissions and manuscript preparation. RAs who have worked in the lab for one semester or more are eligible to be considered for a senior thesis. RAs typically register for supervised course credit in psychology in the semesters they are involved.

**Preferred qualifications:**
I will consider applicants at all levels (freshmen - senior) who have a solid academic record (GPA 3.0 or higher), and are detail-oriented, responsible and motivated to learn about research. I prefer that students be willing to commit at least two semesters to working in the lab, and enroll in 2-3 credits of supervised research in psychology (which corresponds to 6-9 hours of RA work per week).
DR. CHRISTY WALCOTT

Field of Specialization: School Psychology

Description of research assistantship: Our Pediatric School Psychology lab is researching system factors that affect learning in elementary school. We are focusing on rural schools, the effects of poverty, and systemic factors that contribute to achievement gaps between white students and students of color. You would have an opportunity to assist with graduate student thesis and dissertation projects as well as my own research projects. We try to involve lab students in various aspects of research (e.g., reviewing literature, collecting data, analyzing data, disseminating research via posters and papers). Undergraduates who have worked in our lab for one semester or more are eligible to be considered for senior thesis mentorship.