

**Undergraduate Research Assistantships and Theses  
Department of Psychology – East Carolina University  
Spring 2017 Assistantships**

- 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 spring 2017.
- Afterwards, complete the online application by using the following web address:  
[https://ecu.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_5jcmvMUfYJ13ABD](https://ecu.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_5jcmvMUfYJ13ABD)  
The deadline for completing the application process is October 28, 2016. The link to the application will become inactive after the deadline, so please complete the process as soon as possible if you are interested.

For more information, please visit <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/psyc/Student-Research.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

Research Description: Dr. Baker's research examines human social behavior from an evolutionary perspective. Most projects examine how mating motives and relevant self-presentational concerns impact a range of behaviors including (but not limited to) risk-taking, food selection, memory performance, oral hygiene, and exercise. Assistants in the Baker Lab may gain experience completing a variety of tasks related to this research including literature review, stimulus development, working with data (coding, cleaning, entry, and analysis), collection of data via experimental protocols, one-on-one interaction with research participants, and observational data collection. All assistants are required to attend a weekly lab meeting scheduled at 1 PM on Fridays.

Dr. Baker will consider students for research assistant positions (PSYC 4501), but will not mentor undergraduate senior theses. 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 providing early mentorship experiences for freshmen and/or sophomore students.

## **Dr. Matthew Whited**

Field of Specialization: Clinical Health Psychology

Research Description: The Cardiovascular Psychophysiology lab focuses on understanding the association between mental health issues (especially depression) and cardiovascular disease. This year, we are looking for research assistants to help us collect physiological data that will be connected to a series of surveys assessing college student mental and physical health. Our goal is to determine which transdiagnostic physiological (e.g. heart rate variability) and psychological (e.g. behavioral activation, experiential avoidance) factors best predict behavioral and mental health outcomes (e.g. depression, eating behavior, obesity). Undergraduate research assistants would be expected to collect physiological data provided by undergraduate participants, attend weekly lab meetings to learn more about the research process, complete any assigned readings, and participate in data entry and management. Undergraduates who have worked in our lab for one semester or more are eligible to be considered for a senior thesis.

Dr. Whited will consider students for research assistant positions (PSYC 4501), but will not mentor undergraduate senior theses. 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. Whited is also open to considering providing early mentorship experiences for freshmen and/or sophomore students.

## **Dr. Tony Celluci**

Field of Specialization: Clinical Health Psychology

Research Description: Dr. Celluci and his doctoral student Mr. Kirk Mochrie can mentor up to two undergraduate students (junior status) interested in the topic of "ADHD and substance abuse". This work would involve conducting literature reviews, selecting measures to employ in research (e.g., questionnaires) and collection of pilot data. Assistants who are able to work in this lab for multiple semesters could help with running subjects and collecting data as well. Amount of course is negotiable but the aim is to recruit assistants who would complete 1 credit hour for a commitment of approximately three hours of responsibilities per week.