Undergraduate Research Assistantships and Theses
Department of Psychology – East Carolina University
Spring 2022 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 interested 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 2022.
• Afterwards, complete the online application by using the following web address: https://ecu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5yZv5VKGcF0wrUW
• The deadline for completing the application process is Monday, November 1st.
• The link to the application will become inactive after the November 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/StudentResearch.cfm
List of Faculty Mentors

Please review the following list of faculty mentors and note your preferences.

Dr. Stephanie Wallio

Field of Specialization: Gender Equity in STEM; Organizational transformation

Research Description: This research assistant opportunity is for the National Science Foundation-funded project THRIVE (Toward Hiring, Resource, Inclusion, Value and Excellence) at ECU. This 3-year project is aimed at changing culture, building support, and removing barriers for women and other underrepresented groups in STEM fields across the university (both East and West campuses). Research assistants will work under Dr. Stephanie Wallio, who is an evaluator for THRIVE@ECU, and a doctoral-level graduate student in Organizational Health Psychology but will have the opportunity to interact with and observe faculty and university leaders from many disciplines across the university. You can learn more about THRIVE@ECU at thrive.ecu.edu. Activities for a research assistant will include helping with: social media for the THRIVE@ECU project, advertising upcoming events, coordinating project events, retrieving and summarizing articles for research papers, reviewing and summarizing evaluation data from project events. An ideal research assistant applicant will have an interest in education or research in STEM fields, gender equity issues, higher education administration, or organizational issues such as hiring, retention, promotion, and evaluation.

Available to Freshmen/Sophomores?: No/Not at this time

Dr. Shahnaz Aziz

Field of Specialization: Industrial/Organizational Psychology

Research Description: My area of interest lies in the domain of employee well-being and health, specifically, workaholism. Student researchers would typically be involved in subject recruitment, data collection/entry, and discuss relevant literature. Undergraduates who have worked in our lab for one semester or more are eligible to be considered for a senior thesis.

Available to Freshmen/Sophomores?: Yes
Dr. Michael Baker

Field of Specialization: Social Psychology

Research Description: 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, smoking cessation, and risk-taking.

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 healthy behaviors are performed.

Please note that applications are typically very competitive as student interest is often high and space in the lab is limited.

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.

Available to Freshmen/Sophomores?: Yes