Undergraduate Research Assistantships and Theses
Department of Psychology – East Carolina University
Spring 2023 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 the Spring 2023 semester.

- Afterwards, complete the online application by using the following web address: https://ecu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1HXiWcXkCD9UkqG

- The deadline for completing the application process is Friday, October 28th.

- 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/StudentResearch.cfm
List of Faculty Mentors
Please review the following list of faculty mentors and note your preferences.

**Dr. Lisa Campbell**

*Field of Specialization: Clinical Health Psychology*

*Research Description:* The Health Disparities Interventions Lab focuses on evaluating and disseminating psychosocial interventions to improve adjustment to and self-management of chronic diseases in disparity populations. The Lab conducts research along the entire chronic disease continuum from prevention, to screening, diagnosis, treatment and ongoing disease management, and end-of-life. Current research projects are addressing preventive health behaviors, sexual health, and mental health care utilization in African American women, Latinas, and sexual minority women.

Research assistant positions available? YES  
Willing to mentor senior thesis? NO  
Available to Freshmen/Sophomores? YES

**Dr. Mark Bowler**

*Field of Specialization: Industrial/Organizational Psychology*

*Research Description:* I am currently focusing on (1) Employee burnout and engagement; (2) telecommuting; (3) malicious compliance and withholding effort; (4) psychology of politics.

Research assistant positions available? NO  
Willing to mentor senior thesis? YES  
Available to Freshmen/Sophomores? NO

**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, etc. Undergraduates who have worked in our lab for one semester or more may be eligible to be considered for a senior thesis.

Research assistant positions available? YES  
Willing to mentor senior thesis? NO  
Available to Freshmen/Sophomores? NO
Dr. Courtney Baker

Field of Specialization: Industrial/Organizational Psychology

Research Description: I am interested in how we perceive others, related to their identities and social features, how others perceive us, and how this impacts the way in which we treat others and perceive discrimination. I would classify myself as a diversity, equity, and inclusion researcher, with a primary focus on aging, gender, and disability. I also look at leadership perceptions, perceptions of humor use, multitasking, and workplace mistreatment as some secondary areas of interest. Currently, my lab is focusing on what it means to age healthily in the workplace and designing some projects related to worker experiences based on their age categories. In my lab, I typically coordinate lab tasks based on the needs of the projects that are actively occurring, so it is hard to predict exactly what you’d be engaging in, but I try to give experiences across the research process. This means that tasks you could be helping with include, but are not limited to, pretesting surveys, coding data, literature searchers, APA reference checks, and collecting participant data. I do require that research assistants attend a once per week lab meeting to coordinate tasks and a lab project. Each semester, my students in my lab help to develop and facilitate a lab project together and engage in the full research process based on my lab’s research focus. For first time lab students, I would like that they register for the course credit and after that could volunteer in lab rather than taking course credit if they desire. Undergraduates who work in my lab for at least one semester are eligible to be considered for a senior thesis.

Research assistant positions available? YES
Willing to mentor senior thesis? NO
Available to Freshmen/Sophomores? YES

Dr. Marion Eppler

Field of Specialization: Developmental Psychology

Research Description: We are looking for students to assist with a research project examining Dweck’s Mindset theory with college students. Students will be trained to assist with running the study (data collection) and coding data. Research assistants for the spring 2023 semester will register for PSYC 4501 (directed research) for 2 credits (6 hours per week—1 to 2 hours for a weekly lab meeting and 4 to 5 hours per week for reading, data collection, and other research duties). The only requirements are that you are a declared Psychology major and a highly motivated and responsible individual interested in learning about research. Potential candidates will be interviewed.

Research assistant positions available? YES
Willing to mentor senior thesis? NO
Available to Freshmen/Sophomores? NO
Dr. Michael Baker

Field of Specialization: Social Psychology with an Evolutionary focus

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.

Research assistant positions available? YES
Willing to mentor senior thesis? NO
Available to Freshmen/Sophomores? NO

Dr. Stephanie Wallio

Field of Specialization: Gender equity in STEM fields; Program evaluation

Research Description: An undergraduate research assistant will work as part of the THRIVE (Towards Hiring, Resources, Inclusion, Value and Excellence) @ECU team. THRIVE is a 3-year grant funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to increase gender equity in STEM fields. More information about THRIVE is available at: https://thrive.ecu.edu/. An undergraduate research assistant will work under the supervision of a graduate research assistant from Occupational Health Psychology and Dr. Stephanie Wallio. Tasks may include helping to prepare literature reviews, maintain social media accounts for THRIVE, and prepare evaluation reports.

Research assistant positions available? YES
Willing to mentor senior thesis? NO
Available to Freshmen/Sophomores? NO
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 Spring 2023 semester. Research conducted in the lab focuses on areas pertinent to the fields of health psychology, clinical health psychology, and clinical psychology.

Description of projects: Currently, I am recruiting undergraduate research assistants to help with two projects. In your application, please indicate which of these projects you would be most interested in helping with.

- An online survey study of stress and mental health in college students.
- Development of a mindfulness-based stress management intervention adapted to optimize relevance and accessibility for underrepresented groups.

Description of research assistantship: Research assistants (RAs) read research articles related to the project they are involved with, participate in regular 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 and 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).

Lab website:

Our lab group recently developed a lab website where you can find more information. It is still under development but most of the content is available.
https://sites.ecu.edu/dolbierstressandhealthlab/

Research assistant positions available? YES
Willing to mentor senior thesis? YES
Available to Freshmen/Sophomores? YES