

Faculty Member Contact Information

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Description of the URCA Assistant Position


This posting includes one funded position. In addition, the faculty member may be willing to mentor additional, unfunded students.


How many unfunded students is this professor taking in addition to his/her one funded student? 1

(Students, if the faculty member will have both funded and unfunded students, he or she is free to select which student receives the funding. Funding cannot be split up between multiple students; only one student will receive it.)

Which of the following apply to this position?

This position is **only** open to students who have declared a major in this discipline. **M**

This project deals with social justice issues. 

This project deals with sustainability (green) issues. 

This project deals with human health and wellness issues. 

How many hours per week will your student(s) be required to work in this position? 9

(Minimum is 6 hours per week; typical is 9.)

Will it be possible for your student(s) to earn course credit? Yes No

If yes, in which course? PSYC 491

If yes, for how many credit hours? 3

Location of research/creative activities: AH 0341

Brief description of the nature of the research/creative activity:

The student will provide support as we explore the effect of contextual anchors on simple math calculations. Previous research has shown that answers to simple math problems (i.e. $123+432+211=???$) can be biased if participants have to compare their answer to another number, even if that number is obviously not the correct answer. We will be exploring the reasons for this effect, as well as attempt to design a study that can reduce this bias.

Brief description of student responsibilities:

My assistant will be responsible for supervising the experiments related to anchoring effects on numeric calculations. This will be in addition to collecting data, analyzing the data, and the design of related studies that we create as we explore the data.

URCA Assistant positions are designed to provide students with *research or creative activities* experience. As such, there should be measurable, appropriate outcome goals. What exactly should your student(s) have learned by the end of this experience?

At the end of the semester, my assistant should have experience in experiment creation, data analysis using SPSS, management of a small lab of undergraduates (3 or so other undergraduate students), and will have the opportunity to participate in the presentation of the data.

Requirements of Students

If the position(s) require students to be available at certain times each week (as opposed to them being able to set their own hours), please indicate all required days and times:

Must be available between 9 am and 5 pm Monday through Thursday.

If the location of the research/creative activities involves off campus work, must students provide their own transportation?

N/A

Must students have taken any prerequisite classes? Please list classes and preferred grades:

I would prefer students to have taken PSYC 220 and 221. Students who expect to be enrolled in 221 concurrently with being a URCA assistant may also apply. I would also strongly recommend completing PSYC 208 (Cognitive Psychology)

Other requirements or notes to applicants:

Students with an interest in cognitive psychology, experimental psychology, and/or decision making are preferred.