





Faculty Member Contact Information

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Contact Info	
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Department	Psychology

1 Funded, 4 Unfunded URCA Assistants

	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.	
	This project deals with community outreach.	
	This mentor's project is interdisciplinary in nature.	I

Are you willing to work with students from outside of your discipline? If yes, which other disciplines?

- Only similar fields

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

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

- 9 hours

Will it be possible for your student(s) to earn course credit?

- Yes—PSYC 491 (3 credit hours)

Location of research/creative activities:

- Alumni Hall 0406

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

Students will work together as a team, under my supervision, to implement their own group research project in the area of social psychology. Specifically, students will work on one the following projects, depending on interest and experience:

1. Examining the relationship between teacher humor, student-teacher rapport, and general anxiety in the college classroom environment. We are conducting a research study examining the relationship between students experience of general anxiety and the use of humor in the classroom by teachers. Specifically, we want to know whether using humor in the classroom has a positive impact on the perceptions of learning for individuals who report experiencing general anxiety. We also want to know if teacher humor positively impacts the student-teacher relationship for those with general anxiety. There is room to expand the variables of interest for this study.

2. Exploring the existence and influence of science identity in STEM students. We are in the process of conducting several studies and collecting data. We need assistance with literature searches, developing study materials, data collection and analysis. We have been conducting an additional data collection for this study in Spring 2024. Data collection and data analysis for this study will be ongoing. Interested students will be able to participate in these processes.

3. This project is a collaborative project where we are studying student engagement with the major and resources provided by the department. Specifically, we want to better understand how students use information provided by departments for major and career planning. We will be focusing on data analysis and manuscript preparation. Interested students will be able to learn how to develop a literature review and write a publication level research manuscript.

Brief description of student responsibilities?

Students will be engaged in literature review, study design, IRB application, data collection, data cleaning and analysis, and writing up results. Students may gain experience with conducting structured interviews of participants and will have opportunities to engage in professional collaborations with other faculty at SIUE. Essentially, students will learn how to complete a research project from beginning to end.

Additionally, students will learn to use programs such as Qualtrics or SPSS and have the option to submit their work for presentation at a regional conference.

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?

Students should learn primarily how to complete a research project from beginning to end. Also, students should learn how to search for articles using PsycINFO and related databases, critically read and summarize published empirical journal articles, use APA style, analyze data, write up scientific findings for a scholarly presentation.

In addition, they will apply to present at Midwestern Psychological Association, the Psychology Expo, the SIUE UG Showcase and the Psychology Psi Chi research competition. This will give them a multitude of experience in presenting their research findings in both poster and oral format.

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:

- Students will need to be able to attend a weekly lab meeting that I will make every effort to set at a time that all of my research assistants can meet.

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 strongly prefer my students to have taken both PSYC 220 and 221 and have earned at least a B in both.

Other requirements or notes to applicants:

- 1. In addition to the research experience, I will dedicate time to talking about graduate school - students interested in going on to graduate school might find this to be useful.
- I work best with independent, hard-working students who are serious about learning more about the research process and preparing for graduate study.
- Priority will be given to students who wish to take this experience for TWO consecutive semesters (fall and spring).