

Undergraduate Research Assistant Opportunities

Below is a list of faculty, graduate students, and others, who are looking for research assistants (RAs). *If you are interested in one of these opportunities, please use the contact information below to get involved.*

Faculty	Research Interest	Contact Information
Ben-Porath	Our research focuses on the use of a clinical personality test called the MMPI 3. Our current projects are related to the use of MMPI-3 scores in several settings (e.g., outpatient mental health, forensic evaluations) and associations between MMPI-3 scales and transdiagnostic variables and models of personality. We provide opportunities for motivated students to collaborate on research projects, which could lead to conference presentations or journal publications. We have a formal application process that allows potential undergraduate students the opportunity to learn more about the research group experience before making any firm commitments. 3.0 GPA required with 3.5 GPA and 6 hours per week commitment preferred.	Jake Brown jbrow299@kent.edu
Black	Our research is broadly interested in risk experiences/conditions that leave children and adolescents vulnerable to depressive disorders. RAs will receive training to work on a large research study. For this study, RAs will have the opportunity to collect data from parent-child pairs, including questionnaires, physiological measures, and saliva samples for later hormone analysis. Interested UGs may have the opportunity to work on manuscripts with graduate students or the lab director, or complete independent projects after at least one successful semester in the lab. Minimum requirements: 3.0 GPA, 9 hr/week, two-semester commitment.	Dr. Sarah Black sblack38@kent.edu
Casto	Research in this lab is focused on the hormonal and neural mechanisms that influence social interactions, optimal performance, and health outcomes using a variety of methods such as hormonal assays, surveys, behavioral tasks, and functional near-infrared spectroscopy (a neuroimaging technique). Those interested to join the lab should be open to learning computer software required for neuroimaging data collection and analysis and preferably committed to at least 2 semesters of work in the lab.	Dr. Kathleen Casto Kcasto6@kent.edu
Ciesla	Research interest: Our research focuses on risk for depression and its association with sleep, social media use, and stigma (racial and LGBT+). RAs will be involved in running participants, recruiting participants, and managing data. Students will have the opportunity to become involved in research projects that could lead to conference presentations. Minimum requirements: 3.0 GPA and at least 6 hr/week commitment.	Dr. Jeff Ciesla jciesla@kent.edu
Coifman	Research on emotions, stress, and relationships. (Note: 6-9 hrs/week and two-semester commitment required)	Dr. Karin Coifman kcoifman@kent.edu
Delahanty	Opportunities are available for several projects being conducted in collaboration with Akron Children's Hospital. Help is also needed with several current projects examining physical and mental health outcomes in a variety of populations including college undergraduates, individuals experiencing recent and past trauma, as well as individuals seeking addiction treatment.	Main Lab delahantylab1@gmail.com

Folk	Our lab focuses on understanding how written language is processed during reading and spelling. Opportunities are available for projects investigating individual differences in reading and spelling skills and the relationship to reading processes and learning new words during reading.	Dr. Jill Folk jfolk@kent.edu
Gere	Research in the lab focuses broadly on goal pursuit in the context of romantic relationships. Research assistants are typically involved in helping with literature search, study programming in Qualtrics, collecting data, correspondence with participants, coding of videotaped interactions, recruitment, and other study-related tasks. Research assistants should be able to commit 3-6 hours per week and have an interest in continuing in the lab for several semesters. Must have a minimum 3.0 GPA and intend to go to graduate school in a field related to psychology.	Dr. Judith Gere jgere@kent.edu
Gilman	Our lab is focused on identifying how stress, diet, and genes interact to affect brain health and behavior. We are accepting applications for research assistants. Requires in-person work. Minimum 10 hour/week commitment, and one <i>full</i> semester of research assistance must be completed prior to consideration for a recommendation letter.	Grace Sonick gsonick@kent.edu OR Anna Crites acrites8@kent.edu
Hamrick	Our research explores the links between language learning and processing and declarative and procedural memory. We study these cognitive abilities in monolinguals, bilinguals, and in aging populations. Note: 3.0 minimum GPA; 6 hours per week minimum commitment required.	Dr. Phillip Hamrick phamric1@kent.edu
Himmelstein	Research in the lab examines identity, stress, and coping processes in two main areas: weight stigma and masculinity. More info here: https://sites.google.com/view/swaglab/research Minimum 3.0 GPA, ability to work 6-9 hours/ week and commit for two semesters.	Dr. Mary Himmelstein mhimmels@kent.edu
Miller-Cotto	Individual Differences in Cognitive Development. Current research projects: 1) The role of executive functions in early math knowledge 2) the role of context on children's executive function performance. Two or more semester commitment required.	Dr. Miller-Cotto dmillerc@kent.edu
Neal-Barnett	Current projects involve anxiety, and racial and ethnic identity in African American females. We are looking for undergraduate research assistants to perform general duties in the lab, as well as facilitate groups for Black adolescent girls. Additionally, we are looking for an undergraduate lab coordinator to maintain our lab email and perform general secretary duties. (Note: minimum 3.0 GPA)	Main Lab pradaalab@gmail.com
Sato	Pediatric Health and Stress Lab. Current research projects include 1) a mindfulness-based healthy lifestyle and stress reduction intervention for adolescents from a low-income background and 2) a study examining psychosocial and physical factors that influence pediatric weight management, in collaboration with Akron Children's Hospital. (Note: 3.3 minimum GPA; 6 hrs/wk and two-semester commitment required).	Elise Weber eweber18@kent.edu
Thompson	How children and adults learn about fractions and make simple numeric decisions. (Two-semester or more commitment strongly preferred)	Dr. Clarissa Thompson cthomp77@kent.edu

Updegraff	Cognitive and emotional processes that contribute to health behaviors, well-being, adaptation to stress, and goal achievement. More information here: https://updegrafflab.wixsite.com/index/join	Dr. John Updegraff jupdegr1@kent.edu
Was	Research interests: Automatic and controlled cognitive processing in learning and complex cognition. Student motivation and academic achievement.	Dr. Christopher Was cwas@kent.edu

Listed below is NOT a Research Assistant position, but rather a paid student worker position:

The behavioral neuroscience laboratories within the Psychological Sciences department need undergraduate caretakers to support the care of rats and mice. These are paid positions for approximately 10-20 hours/wk. and require some weekend and holiday work. Availability throughout summers is **mandatory**. Undergraduate caretakers are responsible for changing and cleaning cages, and ensuring their housing spaces and the cleaning area are kept sanitary and tidy. Caretakers also assist with basic rodent husbandry, including careful monitoring of rodent health and well-being. Prior experience handling rodents is preferred. Qualified individuals should be reliable and responsible when working independently and must communicate quickly and effectively via email to work with colleagues and their supervisor, the Animal Facility Director. The ability to lift 50lbs is necessary. These caretaking positions are competitive; only one-two slots on average each semester are available. Preference is given to the most professional and qualified applicants. Contact Animal Facility Director Dr. Lee Gilman at lgilman1@kent.edu if interested in applying.

****Last Updated February 28, 2024**