

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/Grad Student	Research Interest	Contact Information
Ben-Porath	Our research focuses on the use of a clinical personality test called the MMPI-2-RF. Our current projects are related to the use of MMPI-2-RF scores in several settings (e.g., outpatient mental health, forensic evaluations) and associations between MMPI-2-RF 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 and 6 hours per week commitment preferred.	Megan Whitman mwhitma5@kent.edu
Ciesla	Research Interest: Our research focuses on the relationships between sleep, depression, and stress in adult populations. This is an excellent opportunity for individuals interested in graduate school to gain experience in both data collection and analysis. Students will also have the opportunity to become involved in research projects that could lead to conference presentations. (Note: 3.2 minimum GPA; at least 6 hrs/week and two-semester commitment required; individuals with an interest in graduate school are preferred.)	Christian Bean cbean8@kent.edu
Ciesla	Project involving running participants in an experiment regarding ruminative thought and affective responses to interpersonal stress.	Dr. Jeff Ciesla jciesla@kent.edu
Ciesla	Broadly, this research project focuses on emotional distress vulnerability (e.g., anxiety, depression), substance use, and sleep. (Note: 3.0 minimum GPA required; persons with prior research experience or plans to go on to graduate school preferred).	Luke Heggeness lheggene@kent.edu
Coifman	Research on emotions, stress, and relationships. (Note: 3.0 minimum GPA; 6-9 hrs/week and two-semester commitment required)	Dr. Karin Coifman kcoifman@kent.edu
Delahanty	Opportunities are available for a number of 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
Dunlosky	Our research focuses on three related components of self-regulated learning: (1) monitoring of learning, (2) control of study time, and (3) the application of strategies during learning. A major goal of this research involves developing	Rachel Hall rhall52@kent.edu

	<p>techniques to improve student learning. Some examples of current research questions we are investigating (both in the lab and classroom) are: Can students learn about the effectiveness of learning strategies through experience? Why is there often a disconnect between what students should be doing to enhance their learning and what they actually do? How well do students regulate their learning of categories? (Note: 3.0 minimum GPA, must intend to go to graduate school)</p>	
Flessner	<p>Clinical child psychology. The majority of the projects are focused upon understanding psychosocial risk factors linked to the development of child anxiety and related problems. We have more recently begun to expand our work to examine the influence of child anxiety on pediatric health conditions (and vice versa). More specifically, we are in the process of developing several studies to gain a better understanding of the day-to-day experience of children suffering from any of the “big 8” food allergies. We are also initiating a parallel line of research seeking to examine the potential benefit of a behavioral intervention for young children (4-5 years of age) diagnosed with a food allergy with aim of preventing food allergy reactions in this particularly vulnerable population. (Note: 3.3 minimum GPA; 6hrs/week and two-semester commitment required; preference given to psych majors interested in pursuing graduate school and have taken Quant 1 or Research Methods.)</p>	<p>Tess Gladstone tgladsto@kent.edu</p>
Folk	<p>Opportunities are available for projects investigating individual differences in reading skill and the relationship to reading processes and learning from text.</p>	<p>Dr. Jill Folk jfolk@kent.edu</p>
Fountain	<p>Projects with rats: 1) Studies examining adult learning and memory impairments caused by exposure to drugs, such as nicotine, during adolescence. 2) Studies examining the neural, behavioral, and cognitive systems responsible for complex behavior. Minimum requirements: 3.0 GPA in the previous academic year and commitment to approximately 10 hours of lab time per week.</p>	<p>Main Lab FountainLab@gmail.com</p>
Gere	<p>Research in the lab focuses broadly on goal pursuit, romantic relationships, and well-being. Research assistants have to be able to commit to 3-6 hours/week for at least 2 semesters. Must have minimum 3.2 GPA and intend to go to graduate school in a field related to psychology.</p>	<p>Dr. Judith Gere jgere@kent.edu</p>
Gilman	<p>Our lab is focused on identifying shared neurobehavioral pathways between prevalent health-related and neuropsychiatric conditions (type II diabetes and depression, hypertension and anxiety), with an emphasis on the contributions of unhealthy diets to these pathophysiological processes. Minimum 10 hour/week commitment, and one <i>full</i> semester of volunteer research assistance must be completed prior to consideration for research credit. Contact Ms. Beaver for an application.</p>	<p>Jasmin Beaver Jbeave18@kent.edu</p>
Godwin	<p>The Child Development Lab studies how children learn (in the lab and in classrooms). Ongoing projects include the development of attention and executive function. We investigate how these factors influence children’s engagement and learning. Other projects include how learning environments and instructional materials can be optimized to promote attention. We also study how children’s language development influences their ability to reason about categories.</p>	<p>Dr. Karrie Godwin kgodwin1@kent.edu</p>

Grau	<p>The Culture, Parenting, and Child Development Lab's current project focuses on the parenting of Latina adolescent mothers. Specifically, the goal of this project is to build our understanding of family relationships, parenting behaviors, and toddler development within a cultural context. The lab is currently seeking applicants for Summer and Fall 2020. Applicants should have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA and be willing to commit to 2 consecutive semesters. Spanish proficiency is encouraged, but not required.</p>	<p>Jordan Weith jweith@kent.edu</p>
Grau	<p>Project focuses on retention in African American students. Responsibilities include administering surveys to undergraduate students, attending campus events for recruitment, and assisting with project duties, (Note: 3.0 minimum GPA, 6-9 hours/week, Two-Semester commitment required).</p>	<p>Delilah Ellzey dellzey@kent.edu</p>
Gunstad/Spitznagel	<p>Help is needed on various exciting projects in neuropsychology! Our lab focuses on the brain-body relationship and investigates research questions such as: Is it possible to detect Alzheimer's disease using a smartphone app? Can eating yogurt improve your memory and other mental abilities? How does having a sick pet affect the owner? To get involved in researching these questions and more, email for an application! (Minimum 3.2 GPA)</p>	<p>Victoria Sanborn vsanborn@kent.edu</p>
Himmelstein	<p>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</p> <p>Minimum 3.0 GPA, ability to work 6-9 hours/ week and commit for two semesters.</p>	<p>Dr. Mary Himmelstein mhimmels@kent.edu</p>
Hughes	<p>Health Psychology: Projects regarding the role of psychological and behavioral factors in cardiovascular health and other chronic medical conditions.</p>	<p>Heather Neifert hneifert@kent.edu</p>
Jasnow	<p>The Jasnow Lab research focuses is on understanding the neural circuitry, neuroendocrine mechanisms, and relationships between psychosocial stress and emotional learning and memory. We are always looking for assistance with our current projects investigating the behavioral and biological impacts of social stress and the mechanisms underlying fear learning and memory. Minimum requirements: 3.0 GPA, 8 hour/week minimum commitment, and one semester of volunteer research assistance prior to consideration for research credit. Formal interviews will be conducted and priority will be given to students interested in pursuing graduate school in a related field or medical school.</p>	<p>Carly Halcomb chalcomb@kent.edu</p> <p>Sohini Dutta sdutta1@kent.edu</p> <p>Jordan Adkinds jadkin26@kent.edu</p> <p>Samantha Ortiz sortiz2@kent.edu</p>
Kerns	<p>We study close relationships in childhood, early adolescence, and young adulthood. Current projects include a study of children's relationships with their pet dogs, a study of friendships and romantic relationships in young adults, and a study of the parent-child relationship and how it relates to children and adolescents' positive development. Note: 3.4 minimum GPA, 6-9 hours per week commitment required.</p>	<p>Marissa Gastelle mgastell@kent.edu</p>

Lechner	Research assistants will work on studies examining neurocognitive and psychological processes in addition. Students interested in graduate or medical school are encouraged to apply. A 3+ hour per week commitment is favorable.	Dr. William Lechner wlechner@kent.edu
Merriman	How preschool-age children learn novel words. (Note: 3.0 minimum GPA. Must be able to drive to local preschools. Must have at least two mornings free during the week.)	Dr. William Merriman wmerrima@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
Rawson	Research Interest: Investigating techniques to enhance student learning. (Note: minimum 3.2 GPA, minimum commitment of 6 hours per week for two semesters; preference for students who will be sophomores or juniors in Fall 2020, preference for students who want to go to graduate school)	Dr. Katherine Rawson krawson1@kent.edu
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).	Caroline West cwest30@kent.edu
Taber	Social/health psychology. Projects involve how people think about and respond to risk information for disease. Projects may also involve understanding why people do and do not engage in health behaviors such as smoking and tobacco use.	Dr. Jennifer Taber jtaber1@kent.edu
Thompson	How children and adults learn about fractions and make simple numeric decisions. (Note: 3.0 minimum GPA; minimum of 6.0 hours/week commitment; must have reliable transportation to travel to local elementary schools)	Charles Fitzsimmons cfitzsi4@kent.edu
Updegraff	How do people stick to health-related goals, such as diet and exercise? How can adherence to health behaviors be improved?	Dr. John Updegraff jupdegr1@kent.edu
Updegraff	Conscious and unconscious factors that affect health behavior, judgment, and decision-making. (Note: GPA and other factors will be considered when reviewing applications, but all are encouraged to apply.)	Dr. John Updegraff jupdegr1@kent.edu
Was	Projects involve the study of implicit memory and learning, and attention control. Currently we are investigating mind wandering in classroom and real-	Dr. Christopher Was cwas@kent.edu

	<p>world contexts, and teaching children and young adults mathematical concepts via implicit learning processes. (Note: minimum 3.2 GPA and 6-9 hours per wk commitment.)</p>	
Wildman	<p>First Project: In order for pediatricians to recognize and address behavioral/emotional problems in children, they need to encourage parents to talk to them. We are interested in learning more about how parents perceive pediatrician communication. We are also interested in the impact of race and ethnicity on communication between parents and pediatricians. Research assistants would be responsible for data collection and data entry from parents of young children in the community.</p> <p>Second Project: Youth with Sickle Cell Disease must adhere to a complex treatment regimen. Adherence to this regimen can be complicated by researching the disease and receiving inaccurate information from sources such as social media, the internet, peers, and more. Research assistants will be responsible for data collection and at Akron Children's Hospital, and following data entry.</p> <p>Third Project: We will also need someone to code online social media posts about chronic illnesses (e.g., diabetes, sickle cell, etc.).</p>	<p>Tara Weixel tweixel@kent.edu</p>
Zaragoza	<p>Research projects span a wide array of phenomena regarding the effects of misinformation on memory. Projects research assistants may work on include investigating the effects of corrections in news stories, the effects of fake news on memory and beliefs, how social media interacts with fake news and its impact on memory, and the effectiveness of corrections after being exposed to misinformation about an eyewitness event</p>	<p>Blair Braun bbraun2@kent.edu</p>

**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 for the rats and mice used within their experiments! These are paid positions for approximately 20 hours/week and require some weekend and holiday work. Caretakers will be responsible for changing and cleaning cages, feeding and watering the animals, as well as careful monitoring of animal health and well-being. Routine cleaning and sanitization of the workspace is also required. Prior experience handling small animals is preferred. Qualified individuals should be reliable working independently as well as being comfortable communicating routinely with others part of a group. The ability to lift 50lbs is necessary. Opportunities to learn more about, engage more with and expand upon the basic caretaking of the animals is available to suitably motivated individuals! These caretaking positions are popular and competitive; only a few slots on average each semester are available and preference is given to the most qualified applicants. Please contact Laure Farnbauch, Manager of Laboratory Animal Resources in the Department of Psychological Sciences at lfarnbau@kent.edu if interested in applying.

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