

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT RESEARCH DIRECTORY

Academic Year 2008-2009

Research Lab Descriptions and Available Positions for

Work-Study Employment

Research Participation – Psych. 2112

Volunteer

DEVELOPMENTAL COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE LAB

Job Title: Research assistant (Grade Level 2)

Supervisor Name and Contact Information:

Kelly Snyder, Ph.D.

303-871-2572

ksnyder@du.edu

Positions available: 2

Description: This job is an excellent opportunity to gain research experience in Psychology and Child Development! The Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience Lab is seeking two junior research assistants to work on studies examining brain development and learning and memory in infants and young children. We use a variety of different methods (e.g., behavioral tasks, eye-tracking, recordings of brain activity) to answer questions about how children learn. In addition to the job duties described below, research assistants attend weekly lab meetings where they learn more about theory and research in child development and neuroscience. For more information about our lab, please visit our website at www.du.edu/psychology/DCNlab.

Terms of Employment: We are seeking students to work 10-15 hours per week. We operate during normal business hours, and weekends are occasionally an option (but not a requirement). Must be available on Fridays from 12-1 for weekly lab meetings.

Job Duties: Research assistants help recruit and schedule research participants, test infants in behavioral tasks, code infant behavior from videotape, prepare stimuli, supervise and play with siblings of participants during testing sessions, enter data, assist with the preparation of publications, and attend weekly lab meetings. To apply, please visit our website and download our application in MS Word format:
<http://www.du.edu/psychology/DCNlab/Students.htm>

Job Skills/Knowledge: Little or no prior knowledge or experience required; research assistants must have good interpersonal and communication skills, as well as basic computer skills; research assistants must also be mature, reliable, self-motivated, and detail-oriented.

DEVELOPMENTAL COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE LAB

Job Title: Senior Research Assistant (Grade Level 3)

Supervisor Name and Contact Information:

Kelly Snyder, Ph.D.

303-871-2572

Ksnyder2@du.edu

Positions available: 2

Description: The Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience Lab in the Department of Psychology is seeking two senior research assistants to work on studies examining brain development and learning and memory in infants and young children. We use a variety of different methods (e.g., behavioral tasks, eye-tracking, recordings of brain activity) to answer questions about how children learn. In addition to the job duties described below, research assistants attend weekly lab meetings where they learn more about theory and research in child development and neuroscience. For more information about our lab, please visit our website at www.du.edu/psychology/DCNlab.

Terms of Employment: We are seeking a student to work 10-15 hours per week. We operate during normal business hours, and weekends are occasionally an option (but not a requirement). Must be available on Fridays from 12-1 for weekly lab meetings.

Job Duties: Senior research assistants are responsible for leading individual research projects. Primary responsibilities include supervising subject recruitment activities, serving as lead experimenter during data collection sessions, and overseeing data processing activities (e.g., coding infant behavior from videotape, data entry). Additional responsibilities may include coding, preparing stimuli, and data entry. To apply, please visit our website and download our application in MS Word format:
<http://www.du.edu/psychology/DCNlab/Students.htm>.

Job Skills/Knowledge: One year of experience working in a Psychology research lab is required. Must have excellent interpersonal and communication skills, and good computer skills. Must be mature, professional, absolutely reliable, able to work independently, and extremely detail-oriented.

**PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT READING AND LANGUAGE LAB
RESEARCH ASSISTANT**

Director: Dr. Jan Keenan

Available positions: 3

Graduate Assistants: Amanda Miller and Sarah Priebe

<http://www.du.edu/~jkeenan/reading.htm>

Current Project: Genetics of Reading Comprehension & Word Identification Processes.

Terms of employment: Weekdays, 10+ hours per week.

Description: In our lab we test both identical and fraternal twins on a range of reading and language tasks. Our goals are to understand the relation of component language skills to comprehension and to understand the etiology of language deficits. By comparing identical to fraternal twins we can determine the extent to which language skills and deficits in language are a function of genetic or environmental factors. We also collaborate with molecular geneticists who use our data to find regions on the genome associated with language deficits.

Working in our lab provides excellent experience for undergraduates who might be thinking of attending graduate school. It provides first-hand experience both with assessments that are used to diagnose language and reading problems and with populations that have reading and language problems. Past undergraduate assistants have had great success obtaining admission to first-rate graduate schools.

Duties: The job provides opportunities for developing many research skills. We employ assistants to do a variety of tasks including scoring tests, data entry, data base management, analyses and running undergraduates in experiments. This position can be either for academic credit or work-study. Please contact Amanda Miller at amille23@du.edu or leave a message on the Reading and Language lab phone 303-871-3768.

**PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT RELATIONSHIP CENTER
PROJECT STAR**

Supervisor: Dr. Wyndol Furman

Supervisor Name: Lindsey Dickinson

303-871-3806

Terms of Employment: The Relationship Center/Project STAR in the Psychology Department is looking for enthusiastic and conscientious student employees for Monday through Friday between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to work 10 per week during the academic year.

Job Duties and Responsibilities: Assistants will work as part of a research team focusing on young adults and their romantic relationships. Duties include running video taped observations, transcribing audio taped interviews, entering data, library research, copying, maintaining files, assisting with data analysis, helping to promote positive

relations with participants, and other miscellaneous research oriented tasks. We encourage student employees to be active in the research project as they desire. Possible honors thesis may develop from work in our lab.

Required Qualifications: Desired candidates will have an interest in gaining experience in research as well as interest in psychology and relationships. Candidates will be detail-oriented, friendly, reliable, and be able to work both independently and as part of a team.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT – RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Supervisor: Dr. Rob Roberts, Chair

Position available: 1

Terms of Employment: Weekdays, 10 hours per week.

rroberts@du.edu

Job Duties: This lab studies human perception and cognition. The lab uses computers and special video technology to examine eye movements, attention, and working memory. Students' jobs vary and include running experiments, coding computer-collected data and helping in statistical analyses. The job provides the student with the opportunity to develop many useful skills. For example, students use numerous computer packages, write brief lab manuals, and participate in the planning of research projects. Past students have found the work to be interesting, useful, and rewarding. The experience is also beneficial for those considering graduate school in Psychology.

Job Skills; Students need not have extensive computer experience, but should be familiar with some basic computer applications (e.g., word processing or electronic spreadsheets).

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT PROJECT ASSISTANT

Director: Dr. Norman Watt

Description: The studies in this lab focus on children and young families at high risk. This includes extensive involvement with Head Start and Early Head Start programs in Denver, and a close collaboration with the Denver Public Schools. Of particular interest is the study of "resilient" children who survive and even thrive in spite of exposure to severe adversity in early life, such as poverty. In pursuit of those interests we are working to expand the Ambassadors for Literacy Program that seeks to promote pre-literacy skills in preschool children, while at the same time, creating community service opportunities for economically disadvantaged students who, in turn, earn money for a future college education. Additionally, we will be collecting data for the national Early Head Start Research and Evaluation Project. This will involve conducting home interviews and school assessments of former Early Head Start participants and their comparison peers.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT RESEARCH ASSISTANT
Center for Marital and Family Studies (Frontier Hall, 2nd Floor)
Relationship Development Study

Co-Directors: Howard Markman, Ph.D. and Scott Stanley, Ph.D.

Positions Available: 5-10 positions, 10-20 hours per week

Description:

The Center for Marital and Family Studies is one of the nation's leading research labs in the area of marriage and romantic relationships. Our research is focused on 1) understanding the factors that predict happy marriages as well as divorce, 2) developing effective marriage/relationship education programs, and 3) studying the development of romantic relationships over time.

We currently have several openings for undergraduate students to work as research assistants with the *Relationship Development Study*. This project is looking at the romantic relationships of thousands of 18-35 year old unmarried couples across the country. We will be investigating these relationships over several years to learn how they develop and change over time. We are looking at numerous aspects of these relationships, including communication, sex, commitment, male/female differences, financial issues, and the impact of loving together before marriage.

If you are a motivated, reliable, detail-oriented student with an interest in psychology, we would love to have you join our team! No previous research experience is required. This is an excellent opportunity to gain research experience for those who are considering going on to graduate school after college. In addition to the job duties listed below, undergraduate research assistants will be invited to attend and participate in research meetings and discussions with the lab's Psychology Professors and graduate students.

Job Duties:

Research Assistants will be working with data from the relationship surveys sent in by the couples participating in the Relationship Development study. Because these surveys contain sensitive and private information, confidentiality and maturity are essential. Research Assistants who prove themselves to be dependable and hard-working will eventually be given the opportunity to gain experience in other aspects of the research at our Center, such as interviewing couples and coding videotaped couple interactions.

Interested students should e-mail Gretchen Kelmer at GKelmer@du.edu. For more information about the lab, see <http://www/du.edu/psychology/marriage/>. This position can be either for work-study or academic credit.

**PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT
RESEARCH ASSISTANT
NEUROPSYCHOLOGY LAB
Research with Children with Developmental Disabilities (DDS)**

Director: Dr. Bruce Pennington

Supervisor: Suzanne Miller

303-871-4403

Positions available: 1, Weekdays – 10 hours per week.

Description: This lab has several NIH funded projects at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center doing research on Developmental Disabilities, including autism and childhood schizophrenia.

Duties within the department: Data cross-checking. There may be some interaction with human subjects, especially children.

Psychology Department Emotion and Coping Lab

Director: Daniel McIntosh, Ph.D.

Work study, and PSYC 2112 course credit.

Projects include investigations of how individuals respond behaviorally and psychophysiological to emotional and social stimuli, and how people respond to traumatic and stressful events (especially the role of religion in coping). Methods used include laboratory, psychophysiology, survey, and interview. See <http://mysite.du.edu/~dmcintos/eclab.htm> for more information.

Research assistants help with the collection and processing of data, contacting and scheduling participants, coding of videotapes and interview responses, as well as lab-organization, including article retrieval and filing, copying, etc.

Research assistants need to be interested in and able to:

1. Work with people in a professional and warm manner.
2. Learn new computer programs related to the collection and processing of data.
3. Pay attention to details.
4. Work independently.
5. Be an active and invested member of the lab team.

Contact Dr. Daniel McIntosh at daniel.mcintosh@du.edu, or 13712.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT RESEARCH ASSISTANT

The Colorado Project on Economic Strain

Director: Martha Wadsworth, Ph.D.

303-871-2582

Positions available: 4, weekdays and weekends, 10-15 hours per week.

Description: This is a busy lab, with on-going research projects investigating stress and coping in the lives of children and families. Current projects include an investigation of adaptation to Hurricane Katrina evacuees and an evaluation of a prevention program for Colorado families in poverty. In addition to general lab work, students will be involved in weekly lab meetings where new research articles are discussed, thus providing research assistants with the opportunity to learn from both hands on work as well as intellectual reading and discussion. Students have the opportunity to work directly with Dr. Wadsworth, as well as with her graduate students.

Duties: Research assistants are involved in most aspects of the research process including coding videos and interviews, recruiting families, conducting interviews with adults and/or children, data entry, etc.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT RESEARCH ASSISTANT

THE FRAME PROJECT

Director: Martha Wadsworth

303-871-2582

Description: This lab is conducting research on the ways that providing workshops to low-income couples improves their communication, parenting, and coping skills.

We are looking for a talented and dedicated student to work in our lab. Training and supervision are provided. Working in this lab is an opportunity for students to learn about conducting research with couples (on love, communication, parenting, and coping with stress), and also teaches data management, teamwork, and people skills.

Duties:

Assisting couples with completing questionnaires

Data entry

Mailings

Copying

Filing

Attending meetings

Requirements: Students need not have extensive computer experience, but should be familiar with some basic computer applications. Experience with SPSS is a plus. Students must be organized, detail-oriented, and reliable.

**PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT OFFICE SUPPORT
THE SPIRITUALS PROJECT (<http://www.spiritualsproject.org>)**

Director: Professor Arthur Jones

ajones@nova.psy.du.edu or ajones@spiritualsproject.org or 303-871-3795

Positions available: 1

Terms of Employment: The Spirituals Project is looking for a student employee to work flexible hours, up to 10 hours per week during academic terms and up to 20 hours per week during breaks and summer. Some weekend and evening hours may be required, to be negotiated with the supervisor. The position will begin immediately.

Duties: The Research Assistant will assist in data collection in a community-based qualitative research project and will collate and categorize qualitative data, keep records for the project, and do other work as assigned. Training will be provided under the auspices of The Spirituals Project (<http://www.spiritualsproject.org>), a non-profit organization based on campus that is concerned with the preservation and revitalization of a music tradition that originated among enslaved African people in North American in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Requirements: The desired candidate must be intellectually curious, conscientious, detail oriented, have good people skills, basic computer literacy, and be comfortable working in a multi-ethnic and multi-generational community environment. Must be open to flexible hours and able to work both on and off campus. Interest in music and multicultural issues a plus.

**PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT OFFICE SUPPORT
MAIN OFFICE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

Contact: Nancy Pleiman, 303-871-2478

Terms of Employment: Weekdays, 20 hours per week.

Positions available: 3

Description: This position includes regular office duties such as copy work, filing, stuffing envelopes for large mailings, cross-campus errands, some data entry, and typing and filing, etc. This is a good introductory position with allows a student to become acquainted with various faculty members, research labs, and on-going activities within the Psychology Department.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Traumatic Stress Studies (TSS) Lab

Director: Anne P. DePrince, Ph.D., Assistant Professor

adeprinc@du.edu or 303-871-2939

Terms of Employment: The TSS Lab is looking for a student employee to work a minimum of 15 hours per week during academic terms. Hours are flexible and depend on when participants are scheduled for testing in the lab.

Description: The Traumatic Stress Studies (TSS) Lab examines the relationship between trauma, emotion, cognitive processes, and post-traumatic distress. We study multiple influences on trauma responses (e.g., developmental processes, individual differences) and draw on multiple research methodologies (e.g., laboratory cognitive tasks, clinical interviews, survey methodology, physiological methods). Please see www.du.edu/~adeprinc/lab.html for more information about our lab and ongoing projects.

Job Duties: Student employees are involved at many stages of the research process, including stimuli development, data collection, and data entry. These research tasks include: 1) assisting with stimuli development (including recruiting participants and overseeing experiment sessions); 2) assisting with data entry, data analysis and work processing tasks; 3) transcribing interviews; 4) assisting with background research, including literature searches using PsychInfo and other electronic data bases; and 5) attending lab meetings.

Requirements: The desired candidate must be detail oriented, friendly, and able to work in a fast paced office. Must have basic word processing skills and general computer skills. Must have good people skills. Must be able to work with sensitive and confidential information. Must be able to work well independently and on a research team.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT RESEARCH ASSISTANT

INFANT AND CHILDHOOD RESEARCH CENTER

Job Title: Research Assistant

Director: Dr. Janette B. Benson

303-871-3771 or jbenson@du.edu

Positions Available: 1

Terms of Employment: Number of hours per week is approximately 5-10 or more depending on student interest and schedule.

Current Projects: The Development of Future-Oriented Processes, Children's Understanding and Representations of Temporal Events: Spatial Development in Infants and Toddlers.

The spatial development of infants and toddlers involves the use of a sandbox task in which children search for a hidden object in a large or small rectangular, square, or round sandbox. These studies are designed to capture important changes in spatial knowledge between 18 and 36 months of age, an age during which locomotor, language, and cognitive skills are being acquired and should impact children's understanding. In addition, we also explore how environmental features, like the shape and scale of the spatial surround, can impact children's spatial orientation.

The understanding and representations of temporal events project involves the use of a timeline methodology to study how young children form representations for events in past, present, and future time.

Duties: Assistants code videotapes for reliability and enter data into a computer database. The position can be either for academic credit or work-study.

DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOBIOLOGY LAB RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Director: Dr. Sarah Watamura

Available Positions: 1

Graduate Assistant: Lisa Badanes

Terms of Employment: 10-15 hours per week, flexible schedule. Some hours can be evenings or weekends.

Description: In our lab we study physiologic stress and challenge in young children, including links between hormonal markers of stress and immunological markers of health, and between stress and developing attention and inhibition. Projects involve working with young children and families and working with teachers and children in child care settings. We believe that every member of the lab is integral to our research and educational goals and, to that end, we will provide each person involved many opportunities of develop their skills and interests.

Duties: Basic duties include recruiting families, data collection with children in the lab and in the community, as well as coding and entering data. Involvement in all aspects of the research process, including designing, running, analyzing and writing up results will be available depending on the individual's interests.

Job Skills: We are looking for an innovative, organized, self-motivated student who can contribute to the lab. Experience working with young children, or working in a biology lab setting is a plus. The student must also be comfortable making phone calls to families and community organizations. Spanish speaking students are especially encouraged to apply.

**PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT RESEARCH ASSISTANT
EMOTION REGULATION LAB**

Director: Iris Mauss, Ph.D.

imauss@du.edu

Positions available: 1, weekdays, 10+ hours per week.

Description: The projects in this lab explore questions related to emotion and emotion regulation. Our lives are saturated with emotions (feelings, emotional behaviors, and associated bodily reactions), yet emotions usually don't just happen to us. Most of the time, we attempt to regulate our emotions in some way, by denying, intensifying, weakening, curtailing, or masking them. The fact that we have emotions – and also try to regulate them – raises a number of important, yet not very well-understood questions. For example, why do some people or groups of people experience more negative emotions than others? How can people regulate their emotions in order to be nicer and less destructive toward themselves and others? What role does our sociocultural context play in shaping the emotions we experience and express? What forms of emotion regulation are more adaptive in the long run, what ways are less adaptive? In this lab, we explore these questions, mainly with experimental laboratory methods and surveys.

Duties: Students can be involved in various levels of research, depending on their interests and desired level of involvement in the lab. These can range from organizational tasks (e.g., data entry, filing), to more complex tasks (e.g., processing and analysis of data, literature reviewing), to planning a study together. The data we work with includes self-reported (e.g., open-ended interview data, quantitative data), behavioral (e.g., video tapes showing emotional facial expressions), and autonomic physiological data (e.g., heart rate, blood pressure responses). Thereby, students can gain familiarity with a wide range of data domains and tasks relating to psychological research, with a focus on research on emotions and emotion regulation. Hours are pretty flexible.

Requirements: Students need to be interested in research on emotions and emotion regulation. They should be able to participate in discussions on research, work well in a team, use computer programs or learn to use new computer programs related to the collection and processing of data (e.g., SPSS, Excel, MS Word) pay attention to detail, and work independently.