



More Info

Directed Research Opportunities

Partnering with faculty to conduct research offers a valuable opportunity to learn new techniques and apply methods learned in the classroom. Project results are often published or presented at professional conferences.

Starting as early as their first year, students can enroll in directed research: PSYC 197/297/397/497.
If you are interested, contact faculty directly.



Williams Research Group

Counseling Psychology Lab
counseling processes, social identities, leadership and career development

Lab-specific skills: factor analysis, process/outcome research, mixed methods

Critical research questions

- What factors relate to improved outcome for psychotherapy clients?
- To what extent do social identities influence career decisions and leadership style?



Bailey Research Group

Neurobiology of Behavior
animal models, scientific identity

Lab-specific skills: *in vivo* techniques, experimental designs and analyses

Critical research questions

- Are there fast-acting anti-depressant compounds and how do they work in the brain?
- How does curriculum and skill development connect to our scientific identity?



Mantell Research Group

Vocal Perception Action Lab
music, language, imitation

Lab-specific skills: experimental design and analyses, computational programming

Critical research questions

- How do language and music perception and production systems interact?
- Why do people vary in their perception and production abilities (e.g., in singing accuracy)?



Freedman Research Group

Social Psychology Lab
rejection, interventions, gender

Lab-specific skills: experimental design and analyses, Qualtrics, correlational and game research

Critical research questions

- How do people engage in social rejection and what are the consequences of those actions?
- How do gender biases affect interpersonal processes and academic success?



Dennis Research Group

Neurobiology of Addiction
sex differences, animal models

Lab-specific skills: histology, *in vivo* techniques

Critical research questions

- What are the influences of both sex and sex hormones on drug reward, aversion, and motivation?
- How can memory systems be manipulated to prevent drug abuse?



Iking Research Group

Multicultural Psychology Lab
ethnic and sexual minorities, social justice, mental health

Lab-specific skills: Qualitative and quantitative research

Critical research questions

- In what ways do marginalized individuals use adaptive coping strategies?
- How can we use counseling research to foster social change?



Fernandez Research Group
 Rodent Models of Adolescent
 Drug Exposure
drug exposure, animal models
Lab-specific skills: histology,
 pharmacology, *in vivo* techniques

Critical research questions

- What are the roles of adolescent alcohol and nicotine exposure on anxiety-like behavior?
- What are the effects of alcohol and nicotine abuse on learning and memory in adulthood?



Tickle Research Group
 Social Psychology Lab
Media, virtual reality, self
**Lab-specific skills: experiment
 and survey design,** content
 analysis, Oculus Rift

Critical research questions

- How does media exposure affect attitudes and behaviors?
- How do virtual settings and new technology affect feelings, cognition and social behavior?



Dunn Research Group
 Social Change Lab
*multicultural issues, social
 change, marginalized groups*
Lab-specific skills: correlational
 design and analyses

Critical research questions

- In what ways do oppressive experiences impact the lives of marginalized groups?
- How do we implement broader, systems-level interventions that foster social change?



Mirabile Research Group
 Developmental Psych Lab
emotion socialization
Lab-specific skills: survey design,
 correlational research

Critical research questions

- How do parents' and teachers' socialization actions affect children's emotional competence?
- Do teachers use generalized response styles when dealing with children's emotions or are they sensitive to children's individual differences and needs?



Howansky Research Group
 Motivation, Attention &
 Person Perception Lab
*stigmatized groups, health, pro-
 environmental behavior*
Lab-specific skills: eyetracking,
 facial morphing, Qualtrics

Critical research questions

- What factors predict differences in the way people visually perceive and attend to members of stigmatized populations?
- How do health relevant behaviors influence the way people visually perceive their bodies, others, and their environment?



Platt Research Group
 Cognitive Psychology Lab
reasoning, critical thinking
Lab-specific skills: experimental
 design and analyses

Critical research questions

- Why do we use misguided heuristics when making decisions?
- How can we improve deductive reasoning processes?
- What cognitive processes are involved with conspiracy beliefs?

St. Mary's Projects

The St. Mary's Project is a year-long, 8-credit, independently executed course of study intended as a capstone experience for a student's time at SMCM. Working in close conjunction with a professor, you have the opportunity to explore, in depth, a research question or idea.



Jensen Research Group
 Social Development Lab
*social behaviors, social identity,
 inter-group attitudes*
Lab-specific skills: experimental
 design and analyses

Critical research questions

- How does development differ between social groups from early childhood to adolescence?
- How do inter-group attitudes and biases develop and affect development?