

SMI Research Group AVAILABLE POSITIONS

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INTERVIEWING FOR 2 RESEARCH ASSISTANT POSITIONS

The SMI Research Group is looking to interview students to fill 2 RA positions that will assist with a longitudinal research study and also a graduate student's dissertation research project. Information about the SMI Research Group, the research projects, position requirements, and general duties are presented below. *Available positions are volunteer or class-credit.*

SMI RESEARCH GROUP

Our research and clinical work, under the direction of William Spaulding, Ph.D., focuses on an array of areas that ultimately contribute to providing quality services for individuals experiencing serious mental illness (SMI).

Research in the SMI Research group explores biological, psychological, social, neuropsychological, and environmental factors that contribute to psychopathology, with an area emphasis on psychosis and schizophrenia. Additional areas of research include dissemination and implementation of evidence-based services, social justice, and policy related to the treatment of persons with SMI.

Aims of our research include early identification of and prevention/early intervention efforts for individuals at risk for psychopathology prior to onset of illness, identification of novel treatment targets, improvement of extant treatment interventions, effective methods to address barriers to service dissemination and implementation, as well as advocacy initiatives and policy changes that tackle obstacles faced by persons with SMI. For more information on our research, please visit our current research projects page.

BIOPSYCHOSOCIAL HEALTH STUDY

This study seeks to examine the contributions of biological, psychological, social, environmental, and health-related behaviors on physical and mental health. We are especially interested in understanding how biopsychosocial factors that shape lifestyle behavior may impact trajectories of health and wellness across time, within the added implications posed by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

This study is designed to contribute to research on the range of biological, psychological, social, environmental, and behavioral differences that can be found within the general population. Research from this study will enhance our understanding of the biopsychosocial factors that shape physical and mental health through pathways such as health-related behavior. It will also help improve treatment outcomes via identification of *intervention targets* unique to biopsychosocial contributions and environmental exposure(s), i.e., those related to COVID-19.

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This will inform the design of mental health interventions addressing the effects of such factors on physical and mental health. This, in turn, has the potential to reduce health disparities among more vulnerable populations such as persons experiencing more severe mental health symptoms.

RA POSITION PREREQUISITES OR CO-REQUISITES

- 5+ hrs weekly availability for work
- research design/methodology and statistical analysis courses

RESEARCH ASSISTANT EXPECTATIONS

RAs are also expected to be "self-starters" and able to work relatively independently.

Meeting: All RAs must attend the weekly supervision meeting (about 1.5 hours) to determine project status and discuss relevant issues, questions, concerns, or ideas.

Hours: RAs are required to establish a set schedule of a consistent number of hours per week. *All RAs are required to work in the lab 5 hours a week on average (including the weekly lab meeting).*

RESEARCH ASSISTANT RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

- Complete the required human subjects research trainings for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln via the [CITI Program – Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative](#)
- Conduct literature searches via library and internet
- Participate in the data-collection process
- Participate in study design process
- Participate in IRB submission and management processes
- Keep a research journal
- Select possible journal articles
- Create a database for retrieved articles (Mendeley)
- Maintain author/journal list
- Keep a detailed journal of your research steps and document research steps
- Transcribe, analyze, and code data
- Assist graduate students with other research study tasks
- If students are interested in publishing, they will work alongside the graduate students to write an article for publication
- At the end of the semester, to summarize all projects completed during the semester