



## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS NEEDED Summer 2019

The School of Communication both welcomes and encourages undergraduate student involvement in the research programs of faculty and graduate students by serving as undergraduate research assistants. Research assistants play a vital role in the research of any university, by helping with data collection and analysis, computer programming, library research, and writing of research reports for presentation and conferences and for publication. Undergraduates in the social sciences with research experience (especially in the form of an undergraduate thesis) and who meet other entry requirements are often highly sought out by graduate schools, including the graduate program in the School of Communication at The Ohio State University. Furthermore, people with research skills are also sought out in industry and the corporate world. Thus, serving as a research assistant can give you a competitive advantage in your quest for furthering your education in the social sciences or obtaining employment upon graduation. **If you need a letter of recommendation from a faculty member for graduate school or a job, you will get a much stronger letter if you work in a faculty member's research group.** Because there is no such thing as too much experience, we especially encourage students to get involved early in their education, *at least* a year before graduation. It sounds a lot better for a faculty member to say that that you worked in their lab for two, three, or even four years than only a semester.

The School of Communication is currently recruiting undergraduate research assistants for ongoing research projects described below. You may earn 'independent study' course credit by working on these projects or get involved on a voluntary basis—details are to be discussed with the faculty/project contacts. **If you see a project description that interests you, please contact the faculty member directly (unless otherwise indicated in project description).** Most projects fill on a first-come basis until full.

The application deadline for all positions is May 10, 2019.

## Summer 2019 School of Communication Projects

**Project title: Children's Understanding of Astronomy**

Faculty supervisor: Alex Bonus

Contact information: bonus.1@osu.edu 717-222-1638

Email: bonus.1@osu.edu

Total number of research assistants sought: 2-3

Project location: Center of Science and Industry (COSI), 333 W Broad St, Columbus, OH 43215

*Minimum commitment per week: 3-4 hours*

Preferred qualifications: Experience and comfort working with children aged 4-9; reliable transportation to COSI

Project description: This study examines children's understanding of educational media. Research assistants would be responsible for conducting interviews with children and their parents at the Center of Science and Industry. Project tasks would include: (1) interfacing with the public as they explore COSI, (2) describing the basic features of the study to interested guests at COSI, (3) recruiting participants for the study, and (4) completing 20-minute interviews with study participants. Research assistants would be expected to work a minimum of 3-4 consecutive hours at least one day per week on either weekdays (Wed, Thurs, or Fri) or weekends (Sat or Sun). Scheduling is flexible.

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**Project title: Health Communication in Social Media**

Faculty supervisor: Hyunyi Cho

Contact information: Phone: (614) 247-1691

Email: cho.919@osu.edu

Total number of research assistants sought: 2

Project location: Derby Hall

*Minimum commitment per week: 6 credit hours*

Preferred qualifications: communication major students who have taken social media related courses in the School of Communication; GPA  $\geq 3.0$ ; interest in health communication and public health; Commitment to accuracy, attention to details, and ability to meet deadlines. Availability and commitment to the project during the first six weeks of summer is necessary.

Project description: This study will examine health related social media posts. After trained about content analysis methods, students will apply them to the coding and analysis of social media content. Implications of the findings for future health communication efforts will be discussed. Work will be done through individual and group assignments and weekly meetings. This is part of interdisciplinary research with Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Qualified and interested students can continue to learn from ECE professor and graduate student.

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**Project Title: Coding & Online Research**

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Jesse Fox

Contact Information: Dr. Megan Vendemia

Email: vendemia.1@osu.edu

Total number of Research Assistants sought: 3-4

Project Location: A few meetings at Derby Hall; most work done on your own

*Minimum commitment per week: 3-6 hours*

Preferred qualifications: Attentive to detail; strong organizational skills; ability to self-manage and make steady progress on long-term projects without constant supervision.

Project description: We are seeking research assistants to help with coding hashtags and some other research tasks.

To apply for this position, please email Dr. Megan Vendemia at vendemia.1@osu.edu .

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**Project title: Examining the influence of mediated meaningful experiences on pro-social behavior**

Faculty supervisor: Dr. Michael Slater

Contact information: slater.59@osu.edu

Email: silver.91@osu.edu; watts.379@osu.edu

Total number of research assistants sought: 1

Project location: Derby/Journalism (OSU campus)

*Minimum commitment per week: 2-3 hours*

Preferred qualifications: video editing experience

Project description: We are investigating whether television programs that evoke moving emotions can improve the effectiveness of subsequent PSAs with respect to increasing attitudes and behaviors surrounding registering as an organ donor. Previous research suggests that complimentary PSAs following an episode about organ donation may increase the effectiveness of that episode in affecting persuasive outcomes. However, recent research also suggests that evoking certain emotional responses can reduce people's anxiety about death-a factor which makes promoting organ donation more difficult. Findings may have implications for placement of organ donation PSAs during and following specific kinds of television programming that may increase the effectiveness of such messages.

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