UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS NEEDED
Summer 2021

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 June 11, 2021.
Project Title: Children's Learning from Educational TV
Faculty supervisor: James Alex Bonus
Contact information: jamesalexbonus@gmail.com
Email: jamesalexbonus@gmail.com
Total number of Research Assistants sought: 2
Project Location: Center of Science and Industry (COSI), 333 West Broad St, Columbus, OH, 43215

Minimum commitment per week: 3-4 hours on one of the following days: Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday

Preferred qualifications: Prior experience and/or comfort working with 4- to 6-year-old children and their parents. Must have access to reliable transportation (for travel to-and-from COSI).

Project description: We are studying how informal learning experiences (i.e., exposure to educational TV) influences children's learning from formal instruction (i.e., a brief science demonstration). RAs will be required to recruit parents/children who are visiting COSI. They will explain the study to parents and then guide children through the study. Children will watch a 6-minute educational science video (about buoyancy) and answer questions about what they learned. The RA will then provide a brief lesson about buoyancy (i.e., observing objects that float vs. sink) and assess what children learned from the lesson.

Format of remote interaction: This study will be conducted entirely in-person.

Stable on-going internet access required?: No