UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS NEEDED
Spring 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 January 15, 2021.
Spring 2021 School of Communication Projects

Project Title: Meta-Analysis
Faculty supervisor: Dr. Brad Bushman
Contact information: Sophie Kjaervik
Email: Kjaervik.1@buckeyemail.osu.edu
Total number of Research Assistants sought: 3
Project Location: Remote

Minimum commitment per week: 3 hours

Preferred qualifications: Organized; close attention to detail; strong reading comprehension; familiarity with academic articles

Project description: The project involves coding academic articles related to anger and anger management. Research assistants will be asked to gather data from academic articles and enter the information in excel spreadsheets.

Format of remote interaction: All communication will occur online. RAs will receive training via Zoom.

Stable on-going internet access required

Project Title: Media coverage and Twitter activity related to COVID19
Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Graham Dixon
Contact Information: Austin Hubner
Email: Hubner.9@osu.edu
Total number of Research Assistants sought: 3
Project Location: Remote

Minimum commitment per week: 3 hours

Preferred qualifications: Attention to detail

Project description: RAs will be helping conduct a content analysis on news articles and tweets related to the COVID19 vaccination.

Format of remote interaction: Zoom

Stable on-going internet access required
Project Title: Survey Transparency Project
Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Jerry Kosicki
Email: Kosicki.1@osu.edu
Total number of Research Assistants sought: 3
Project Location: Zoom and student’s choice

Minimum commitment per week: 3-4 hours

Preferred qualifications: Completion of any of the following courses would be helpful, but not essential: Comm 4820, 3160 or 3163.

Project description: We’re going to be doing some content analysis of articles in some of the major communication journals to see how much they disclose about their research procedures when publishing studies based on survey research techniques. The idea is to try to increase awareness of issues identified by theories of Total Survey Error and increase awareness of problems in the reporting of survey studies. Basically this is a good opportunity to develop some research experience with relatively simple content analysis tools and contribute to the improvement of the scientific rigor of research in communication.

Format of remote interaction: Zoom

Stable on-going internet access required