

**INDEPENDENT STUDY APPLICATION**  
**Psychology 485- Dr. Laura Pittman's Lab**

Please read the brief description of my research and the lab requirements below. If you are interested, please complete the bottom part of the form and return it. I will contact you soon about availability in my lab for next semester. Decisions will be based on availability and qualifications.

**Brief description of my background and research:** I have a Ph.D. in clinical psychology, with an emphasis on children and families. My research focuses on risk and resilience in children and adolescence, specifically, in how parents (especially their parenting) as well as broader ecological systems (e.g., extended family, neighborhood environment) may buffer the expected negative influence of known risk factors (e.g., parental depression, poverty). Current research projects in my lab involve exploring:

- How grandparents may influence the development of children, adolescents, and college students
- How academic factors may influence depressive symptoms in elementary school-aged children
- How stressful life events influence young adolescents
- How parents and friends influence the development of externalizing behaviors in young adolescents

**Students doing a 485 with me may be involved in the following activities:**

1. Entering data using SPSS, a statistical computer program, for on-going projects
  2. Collecting data from 102 students, families with young adolescents in the community, and children and adolescents in the schools
  3. As needed, searching for, accessing, and summarizing articles related to the studies at hand
  4. Entered reference information into a lab database
  5. Writing a 5-7 page final paper on a topic of mutual agreement
- Students should plan on spending approximately 9 hours a week in the lab, primarily during work day hours (for 3 credits); 12 hours a week if interested in summer session.
  - An active email account that is checked regularly will be required.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Semester you are interested in: SUMMER FALL SPRING Number of credits (1-3): \_\_\_\_\_

Why are you interested in working in my lab?

Have you taken or are you currently taking the following courses:

Research Methods (305):	YES	NO	Developmental Psychology (324):	YES	NO
Lifespan Development (225):	YES	NO	Behavior Disturbances in Children (315):	YES	NO

Any other related coursework:

Describe any previous research experience, if any:

What do you feel you can contribute to the lab (e.g., specific skills you have, either personal or research-related)?

What are other limitations to your availability?

We often are in need of someone who can read, write or speak in Spanish, please indicate whether you are competent in the following (mark all that apply):

- No skills or minimal skills
- Can converse adequately (e.g., coursework, but not fluent)
- Can read and write adequately (e.g., coursework, but not fluent)
- Fluent in speaking, but written language skills not as strongly developed
- Can read and write fluently, but spoken language is not as strong
- Fluent in all aspects of Spanish

If you have a faculty member who knows you well enough to recommend you, please list here their name and in what role you have interacted with them.