



**MISSISSIPPI STATE**  
UNIVERSITY™

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DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY



# Relevant Experiences for Psychology Majors

# What is Considered Relevant Experience?

- Internship
- Leadership like Officer position
- Service Learning/Volunteering
- Research Assistant
- Peer Advising
- Mentoring & Tutoring
- Part- time or full- time work



# Why Do You Need Relevant Experience?



- Learn about field and see if it's right for you.
- Network with professionals in the field.
- Letters of recommendation and references.
- Gain skills for life and list qualifications for future positions.
- Discover your story for your personal statement/goal statement essay.
- Learn about the working world around you and your place in it!

# Where Can You Find Relevant Experiences?

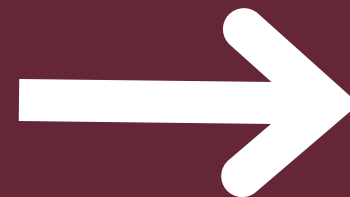
- Your **network**: Your family, friends, coworkers, and more- ask around and see if you know someone who can connect you to the field you're interested in.
- **Google** search of professionals in your chosen field that are nearby.
- MSU Alumni on **LinkedIn**.
- **Undergraduate clubs/organizations** - i.e., Psi Chi, Active Minds, Psychology Club, Neuroscience Club, etc.
- **Psychology Peer Mentor Program** - be matched with a graduate student to assist with graduate school applications and information about the field.
- Set up an Informational Interview with **professionals and/or faculty** to ask about their career journey and what experiences you can do as a student.
- MSU's **Psychology Advisor(s)** can share about Research lab positions and other opportunities on campus.
- **MSU Career Center's** Connections page - <https://msstate-csm.symplicity.com/>

# Some Ideas of Professionals You Can Reach Out To:

- **Professors** in Psychology and other departments
- **Campus Involvement:**
  - Tutoring centers
  - Advising or Mentor internships with Psychology, orientations, Career Center, Counseling and Psychological Services & more
  - Other jobs on campus: Recreation Center, Housing & Residence Life, Office of Student Involvement, Student Union & more
- **Mental Health Counselors/Social Workers**
- **Rehabilitation counselors, Addiction counselors**
- **Mental Health agencies**
- **Suicide hotlines / Crisis Textline**
- **Victim Advocacy agencies**
- **Applied Behavioral (ABA) Therapists**
- **Human Resources recruiters** at Career Center events
- **Schools:** K-12 teachers, principals, counselors, or school psychologists
- **Psychology:** Industrial/Org Psychologists, Experimental Psychologists, Neuropsychologists, Sports Psychologists, Forensic Psychologists, etc.
- **Health:** Medical Doctors, D.O.s, Dentists, Physician's Assistants, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, etc
- Supervisors and Managers in **nonprofit and for-profit** businesses & organizations
- Whatever your goal is, you can find someone who is doing it who will talk with you!

# Research Assistant in the Psychology Department

- Skills you will gain:
  - Running the study from start to finish
  - Working with participants
  - Collecting data
  - Use SPSS outside of classroom
  - Summarize scholarly articles
  - Connect with graduate students and faculty



- Meet with professors to ask about availability in their research labs
  - Be sure you've read all about the research that they conduct on websites found on the Psychology department page.
- Different labs have different requirements, but some are for-credit and some allow volunteer-only.
- Usually work around 10 hours a week in a research lab under a graduate student or a faculty member
  - Usually a 2-semester requirement minimum.

# Online Certifications (Especially If You Can't Find Relevant Experience)

- There are times where (for external reasons), you can not find the time to get relevant experience or find any experiences at all.
- Online certificates are a good way to get trained on some materials and information that will better equip you for future opportunities.
- Some certificates can be found online for free, but some require in-person or hybrid live-call involvement, and some also can cost money.



# Online Certifications (Especially If You Can't Find Relevant Experience)

## Where to find certificates?

- APA Divisions will post certificate opportunities in email chains.
- Google “\_(interest)\_ certificate and see what pops up!
  - For example, “Child Trauma Certificate” pulls up the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) webpage with numerous free certificates.
- Universities also usually have certificates for different colleges (do cost money and time)
  - For example, MSU’s Trauma-Informed Child Advocacy Certificate
- LinkedIn Learning - free for students via the Career Center