

Social Ecology & Adolescent Development

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Department of Psychology | Community Psychology Program

Overview

Our research in the Social Ecology and Adolescent Development lab broadly focuses on 1) understanding the processes of resilience and positive youth development in adolescence and 2) evaluating the effectiveness of community based prevention and health promotion programs. With perspectives gleaned from community psychology, we emphasize collaboration, interdisciplinary scholarship and varied research methods to make a difference in the communities we serve.

Current Projects

- **Project Arrive Group Mentoring for Success**
Large-scale study of a school-based mentoring program for 9th grade students identified as being at high risk for truancy and dropout
- **Teen Health Project**
An evaluation of a sexual health program for adolescents designed to reduce the prevalence of and prevent teen pregnancy and HIV in Atlanta
- **Mentoring Toward College (Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta)**
An evaluation of an enhanced mentoring program that provides a specialized curriculum with a more structured educational focus for youth, and an intentional role for mentors to empower youth to achieve educational goals



University Assistant Responsibilities

University Assistants will be assigned to assist with at least one current project and will be trained on skills and tasks associated with that project. University Assistants are expected to participate in weekly lab meetings and contribute about 8 hours per week. In addition, University Assistants will be encouraged, but not required, to assist in the analysis and presentation of data at public forums, such as Community Psychology program seminars, the Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference (PURC), or the Georgia State Undergraduate Research Conference (GSURC).

Learning Outcomes

The University Assistant will...

- gain knowledge and experience in community-based research
- learn important skills related to research (e.g. data collection, entry, analysis)
- learn about qualitative and quantitative research methods and analysis
- practice critical thinking and communication skills
- have opportunities to present at undergraduate conferences (e.g. PURC and GSURC) professional conferences, and/or co-author manuscripts for publication

Mentoring Plan

Our lab provides a supportive and enriching experience for students interested in community psychology research. University Assistants will work directly with graduate students on a particular research project. Graduate students provide guidance, constructive feedback, and ample opportunities for University Assistants to establish autonomy and competence in research. In addition, University Assistants will meet with Dr. Kuperminc to discuss their progress, interests, or any questions they may have related to our lab research or professional goals.