

Research Experience for Undergraduates at Baruch College, City University of New York

Overview of program

Baruch College, City University of New York is currently recruiting students for participation in a training program funded by the National Science Foundation entitled Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU). The REU site at Baruch College will offer advanced research training for one academic year to 12 undergraduate students who attend colleges and universities in the New York metropolitan area. The program will target students belong to historically disadvantaged groups. REU students will begin working in August 2007 and complete the training program in May 2008. Students will be paid \$1960 per 14-week semester to work at least 10 hours per week in one of the ongoing psychology research labs at Baruch College.

This program provides concentrated research experience in which each student plans and executes an independent project, as well as works with a faculty mentor and their graduate students on existing research projects. Students will develop knowledge and skills in all phases of psychological research, including hypothesis development, research design, data analysis, and scientific writing. Faculty will guide REU students through the process of formulating a research hypothesis, designing and implementing the project, and analyzing and summarizing the findings. Students will present their research at the Baruch REU conference and potentially at national or regional conferences in psychology. REU students will complete a year-long graduate school preparation course taught at Baruch College. Students will learn about all phases of the graduate school admission process, include building one's credentials through research and practicum experiences, taking the GREs, soliciting letters of recommendation, and applying for fellowships. This course will assist students in planning advanced education in the areas that best match their applied and basic psychology interests.

Research teams

The four research teams are described briefly on an attached page. Each team will consist of one faculty member, at least one graduate student, and three REU students. Students will work with the same research team throughout their training. Students will be asked to indicate the teams with which they would most prefer to work. Although every effort will be made to accommodate students' preferences, high demand for certain research areas may necessitate assigning students to their second or third choices.

Eligibility requirements

Students must have a sophomore standing, have at least a B average in their undergraduate courses, and must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. All students who meet these initial requirements are encouraged to apply, although preference will be given to those who are majoring in psychology and those who belong to a historically disadvantaged group in psychology (e.g., Asian, Hispanic, African American, disabled, first generation college student). Each student must be able to commit to at least 10 hours each week to work at the Baruch campus. Efforts will be made to accommodate students' class and other work schedules. Students must have completed a course in the research area in which they will be working (e.g., social psychology) or must be willing to take such a course during the REU year. Student must also have completed a course in research methods and statistics or must be willing to take such a course during the REU year.

Application process

If you are interested in participating in the REU program, please complete the attached, application form. Attach a short narrative (2 pages or less) explaining your long-term career goals and how participation in the REU program will help to facilitate these goals. Send the application form, narrative, and one (unofficial or official) copy of your undergraduate transcript to: Dr. Charles Scherbaum, Department of Psychology, Box B 8-215, Baruch College, 55 Lexington Ave., New York, NY, 10010. If you have any questions, please call 646-312-3807 or send an email to Charles_Scherbaum@baruch.cuny.edu. All applications must be submitted no later than March 28th, 2008.

Application: Research Experience for Undergraduates

Contact information

Name _____ College _____

Home Address

Telephone number: _____ email address: _____

Education

What is your anticipated graduation date? _____ What is your major? _____

What is your GPA? _____

How many psychology courses have you completed? _____

Title of psychology course	Grade	Semester/year completed
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_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Have you completed a course in statistics? Yes No

If no, are you willing to complete a statistics course during the REU year? Yes No

Have you completed a course in research methods? Yes No

If no, are you willing to complete a research methods course during the REU year? Yes No

Are you interested in pursuing a graduate degree in psychology? Yes No

Please rank order your preferences for research labs ("1" indicates first choice, "2" indicates second choice).

RANK

_____ Industrial/Organizational Psychology Lab

_____ Social Psychology Lab

_____ Developmental Psychology Lab

_____ Sleep Lab

Demographics

Age _____

Sex (circle one) Male Female

With which racial/ethnic group do you most identify?

_____ American Indian or Eskimo

_____ Black (not Hispanic)

_____ Asian

_____ White (not Hispanic)

_____ Hispanic

_____ Other (please describe)

Are you a first generation college student? Yes No

Are you a U.S. citizen or permanent resident? Yes No

What is your family income? _____

Are you able to complete a full academic year as an REU student? Yes No

Are you able to spend 10-12 hours a week at Baruch College? Yes No

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- Attach a short narrative (2 pages or less) explaining your long-term career goals and how participation in the REU program will help to facilitate these goals.
 - Include one (unofficial or official) copy of your undergraduate transcript with the application.
 - Please submit this application to:

Dr. Charles Scherbaum (Principal Investigator)
Department of Psychology, Box B-8215
Baruch College
55 Lexington Ave.
New York, NY, 10010

If you have any questions, please call 646-312-3807 or email Charles_Scherbaum@baruch.cuny.edu.

Active Research Laboratories at Baruch College

Industrial/Organizational Psychology Lab

This lab is concerned with issues personnel selection, standardized testing, and the assessment of psychological constructs. This research draws on advanced statistical and measurement techniques to examine bias against racial minorities on standardized tests, the assessment of individual's attitudes and intelligence, and dishonest responding on self-report measures. Other current projects examine attitudes toward female managers, goal-setting processes, and the cross-cultural measurement equivalence of organizational surveys.

Developmental Psychology Lab

This lab is concerned with the application of social cognitive theory to understanding individuals' behaviors. This line of research examines the psychological processes underlying the well being of individuals. One of the most important of these processes is the effect of "context" on the accomplishment of personally valued behaviors. This research examines the impact of contextual factors on adults' belief in their capabilities for performance, or self-efficacy beliefs, as well as the relationships among context, self-efficacy beliefs, and actual performance on everyday problem solving tasks.

Social Psychology Lab

This lab is concerned with stereotyping and prejudice in intergroup contexts. This line of research investigates mental processes and representations that affect social judgment and behavior, with a special focus on the implicit or unconscious ways in which social category information influences our judgment and behavior. In addition, the current research projects concern examining (a) psychological variables that influence jury bias in civil cases and (b) the impact of culture on personality and social behavior.

Psychology of Sleep Lab

Studies in this lab explore the impact of sleep deprivation on decision-making strategies and cognitive performance. Special consideration is given to the causes of sleep deprivation (e.g., partying vs. exam preparation) and how these may moderate the relationship between sleep loss and performance. Future studies will examine sex differences in the functioning of sleep-deprived individuals and the strategies that people use to compensate for sleep loss.