



**Research and Teaching
Assistantships**



What is a Research Assistantship?



- “Skills are actually more important than course content”
- What is a research assistantship?
 - Assist faculty members in a program of research
 - Be involved in *conducting* research instead of merely *reading* about or *participating* in research
- <http://tinyurl.com/y7293xx2>



What are the Advantages of Research Assistantships?



- Acquisition of skills and knowledge not easily gained in the classroom
- Opportunity to work one-on-one with a faculty member
- Opportunity to contribute to the advancement of the science of psychology
- Exposure to general research techniques helpful for pursuing later graduate work
- Opportunity to practice written and oral communication skills by preparing for and attending professional conferences and preparing and submitting manuscripts for publication
- Cultivation of a mentoring relationship with a faculty member that will be helpful for acquiring letters of recommendation



How Do I Secure a Research Assistantship?



- Review list of faculty and their interests
- Make an appointment with faculty member
- DO YOUR HOMEWORK
 - Know what the professor researches
 - Read previous publications
- Be yourself
- Ask questions
- Complete additional forms as necessary



What do Research Assistants Do?



- Administer research sessions with student participants
- Score, code, and/or enter collected data
- Conduct literature searches
- Develop new research ideas
- Attend lab meetings
- Use computer programs to complete project
- Submit abstract/present findings at conference
- Submit manuscript/publish findings in journal



What Questions Should I Ask?



- Current projects?
- Duration of projects?
- Responsibilities?
- Time commitment?
- Credit/pay/volunteer/senior thesis?
- Qualifications?
- Application process?



What Do Teaching Assistants Do?



- Attend class and take notes
- Hold office hours/tutoring sessions
- Proctor/grade exams
- Score assignments for grading