Activities in and around Syracuse

Syracuse University’s main campus is a mix of classic and contemporary academic buildings and a sweeping Quad where students enjoy lunch, toss a Frisbee or just stretch out on the grass to relax. Outside of class, the variety of activities in Syracuse—especially in the summer—is unlimited. Students hike through the woods at Highland Forest, hit the beach at Oneida Shores or Green Lakes, enjoy the waterfront trails at Onondaga Lake Park where there are miles of paths for walking, biking and rollerblading, or paddle a canoe at Beaver Lake Nature Center. Options for white water rafting are within a short driving distance. Others enjoy disc golf at Jamesville Beach Park, learn how to fish at Carpenter’s Brook Fish Hatchery, cheer on the Syracuse Chiefs baseball team, picnic while gazing at the 137-foot falls at Pratts Falls Park, or spend the day at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo. Beyond the local community, you might be tempted to take a short road trip. The Finger Lakes and Adirondack Mountains are easily accessible, and along the way are unique and hospitable communities waiting to show visitors their Upstate New York charm.

In this program, you will:

• Participate in an intensive, four-week summer research program at Syracuse University, and earn $3,000 by attending.
• Be mentored by our faculty and conduct research on a trauma-related topic.
• Present your findings at a national or international conference, and perhaps publish these findings.
• Gain valuable research experience through hands-on opportunities.
• Veterans pursuing an undergraduate degree are invited to participate in this program.
• Undergraduates who are non-Veterans may also be eligible to participate in this program.

For more information:
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Trauma Research Education for Undergraduates
Syracuse University
June 1-26, 2015
About our program

The Trauma Research Education for Undergraduates (REU) program is a joint effort by Syracuse University, SUNY Upstate Medical University, and SUNY Oswego designed to improve access to research experiences for groups typically underrepresented in research. The program is supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The entire program spans one year and is designed as follows:

• First, students will attend an intensive four-week summer program (June 1-26, 2015) that will involve coursework, mentored student-faculty interaction, and the development of a research project. A $3,000 stipend does accompany this summer session; room and board at Syracuse University is included at no cost to the student (but is optional).

• Second, students are expected to conduct their research under the continued mentorship of REU faculty during the following Fall semester.

• Finally, students (with their mentors) are expected to present research findings in the following Spring at a national or international conference.

For undergraduates interested in pursuing a graduate education, it is sometimes difficult to find meaningful research experiences and mentoring. This program is designed to provide research training to both increase your skills in conducting trauma research but also increase your ability to gain admission to competitive graduate programs.

Admission requirements

1. Veteran Status (U.S. Armed Forces) is preferred but not required – a limited number of spaces will be available for non-veterans interested in this program.
2. Completion of college-level courses in Psychology Methods and Statistics, or the equivalent.
3. Current GPA of 3.0 or higher, and;
5. We are particularly interested in applications from women and minorities.

Meet our faculty

The classroom and research environment will include faculty leadership and mentorship from the following individuals representing Syracuse University, SUNY Oswego and SUNY Upstate Medical University:

KEITH A. ALFORD, PHD, ACSW. Dr. Alford, from Syracuse University’s School of Social Work in the Falk College, will provide instruction and leadership in diversity and trauma, as well as group cohesion and conflict resolution.

DESSA BERGEN-CICO, PHD, CHES, CAS. Dr. Bergen-Cico is at Syracuse University and conducts research on veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and related substance abuse problems. Her current research explores the use of mindfulness meditation to reduce PTSD symptoms and improve veterans post-war quality of life.

MATTHEW DYKAS, PHD. Dr. Dykas is at SUNY Oswego and is a developmental psychologist whose expertise and theoretical interests lie in the area of children’s and adolescents’ social and emotional development. He is interested in how family relationships are affected by and modify the experience of trauma.

STEPHENV. GLATT, PHD. Dr. Glatt is at SUNY Upstate Medical Center and director of the Psychiatric Genetic Epidemiology and Neurobiology Laboratory (PsychGENe Lab). His research aims to identify risk factors and biomarkers for a wide range of psychiatric disorders. In relation to trauma, he is actively working to identify blood-based prognostic and diagnostic markers of post-traumatic stress disorder among recent deployed combat veterans.

BROOKS B. GUMP, PHD, MPH is the program director. Dr. Gump is at Syracuse University and conducts research on how environmental chemicals affect responses to stress. For example, lead (Pb) is associated with a stronger stress response. He is interested in how chemicals might affect responses to trauma.

JACQUELINE REIHMAN, PHD. Dr. Jacki Reihman, Ph.D. is a distinguished teaching professor of psychology at SUNY Oswego. She has directed multiple grant-supported longitudinal studies ranging from exploring the cognitive, neurological and behavioral consequences of prenatal exposure to environmental toxins to the impact of teen pregnancy on depressive symptomatology and traditional birth outcomes.

KARENH. WOLFORD, PHD. (co-Director). Dr. Wolford is at SUNY Oswego. She is a licensed clinical psychologist whose research interests include treatment outcome studies, and psychological trauma. Her past work involved the development of a state-wide grief counseling curriculum including a unit on support and supervision for grief counselors dealing with the September 11th tragedy.