

PhD Student

Graduate Research Assistant
Department of Psychological and
Quantitative Foundations
University of Iowa
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Education

Ph.D. in Statistics and Educational Measurement (3rd year, Expected 2028)
The University of Iowa

M.S. in Data Science (Expected 2026)
The University of Iowa

M.S. in Digital Age Teaching and Learning Technology (2022)
The Johns Hopkins University

B.S. in Management (2015)
Dongbei University of Finance and Economics

A.S. in Marketing (2014)
Liaoning Technical University

Research Experience

The University of Iowa
Iowa Testing Program
Research Assistant (January 2024 – Present)

- Assist in developing the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP), which is the annual spring assessment used by all schools in the state of Iowa.
- Conduct research on new testing initiatives and develop new approaches to assessment and reporting on student achievement.

The University of Iowa
Center for Advanced Studies in Measurement and Assessment
Research Assistant (August 2023 – Present)

- Analyze the effects of different preprocessing techniques on NLP classification models.
- Focus on exploring the application of transformer models and neural networks in natural language processing.

The Johns Hopkins University*Assistive Technology Department*

Research Assistant

(February 2022 – July 2022)

- Support the technical team in providing students with materials in alternative formats that are academically convenient.
- Assist professors in teaching and preparing materials for students using assistive technologies, including Kurzweil 3000, Glean, Dragon Naturally Speaking.

MFY Educational Technology Co.Ltd*Researcher and Co-founder*

Research Assistant

(January 2015 – October 2021)

- Conduct educational project research and in-depth development based on the integration of cognitive neuroscience and digital techniques with education.
- Supervise the operation management of the B-end business division, including direct collaboration with major customers.

Publication**Journal Papers**

Li, Z. Sarah, S. Aloe, A. (under review). The Effect of Different Text Processing Techniques on Text Classification.

Li, Z. Zhu, L. Aloe, A.(in progress). Fine-Tuning Generative Models for Text Summarization with Limited Data - A Practical Guide.

Li, Z. Zhu, L. Aloe, A.(in progress). Fine-Tuning LLM Models for PICO Extraction.

Certification

SAS Certified Professional: Advanced Programming Using SAS 9.4

(January 2025)

SAS Certified Professional: Base Programming Using SAS 9.4

(July 2024)

Presentations

Li, Z. Sarah, S. Aloe, A. (2026, April). The Effect of Different Text Processing Techniques on Text Classification. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Council on Measurement in Education in Los Angeles, California.

Li, Z. Zhu, L. Aloe, A.(2026, April). Fine-Tuning Generative Models for Text Summarization with Limited Data - A Practical Guide. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association in Los Angeles, California.

Li, Z.(2020, October). Learning Strategies: How to Memorize English Words Efficiently. Invited talk at Linyi City Radio and Television Station.

Honors and Awards

First-class Scholarship granted by Liaoning Technical University (April 2013)
Provincial Government Scholarship granted by Liaoning Education Department (December 2012)
Merit Student granted by Liaoning Technical University (October 2012)
First-class Scholarship granted by Liaoning Technical University (April 2012)

Professional Service

The University of Iowa

Department of Psychological and Quantitative Foundations

Digital Media Manager (January 2024 – January 2025)

- Counsel minority graduate programs, application procedures and funding.
- Evaluate and propose career services for graduate students.

Professional Memberships

- National Council On Measurement In Education (NCME)
- American Educational Research Association (AERA)

Technical Skills

- Programming languages and mathematical packages: R, SAS, Python, Stan.
- Computer aided design/engineering: optical imaging, Video Clips.