

RAHIEM JEROME BROOKS

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EDUCATION

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill—Chapel Hill, NC

GPA: 3.522

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology (with Neuroscience Coursework), Minor in History

Expected May 2026

- Designated a Carolina Research Scholar
- Dean's List Spring 2025
- NC GlaxoSmithKline Scholar, Carolina Covenant Scholar

DIS Study Abroad in Scandinavia—Copenhagen, Denmark (Summer 2025)

- Completed 3-credit UNC-led course for PSYC575 (Positive Psychology)

Central Piedmont Community College—Charlotte, NC

GPA 3.6

Associate of Arts

Graduated May 2024

- Dean's List; C-STEP Scholar; Executive Vice President, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

RELEVANT INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSEWORK

EDUC 584: AI Learning Innovation

ANTH 318: Human Growth & Development

EDUC 614: Innovation and Engaging Teaching

NSCI 222: Learning

HIST 580: Global Relations & Public History

EDUC 307: Mathematics in Elem School

HONORS AND AWARDS

- **Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF)**, \$4000 Grant
- **UNC C-STEP Pathways to STEM Success Summer Immersion Scholarship**, \$3,250
- **SEOPP Survivor Scholarship, McNair Promising Practices Institute**, \$500
- **Olmstead Family Abroad Scholarship**, \$2,000
- **Fund for Education Abroad**, \$1,250 Scholarship
- **Gilman Scholarship**, \$2,500
- **David Bray Peele Memorial Research Award**, \$250 – *Competitive departmental research grant*
 - Awarded by the UNC Department of Psychology & Neuroscience to fund participant compensation for the PANDA Study (Parenting, Adversity, Neurodevelopment, & Developmental Assessment) honors thesis project.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Circle Lab, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill — Oct 2024–Present,
Principal Investigator: Dr. Margaret Sheridan | The WHALE Study (Well-being, Health, and Adolescent Life Experiences)

- Supported research on emotional regulation and cognitive development using behavioral and interview data.
- Managed data cleaning, verification, and participant confidentiality (CITI Certified, Oct 2024).
- Gained foundational experience in developmental neuroscience that informed the design of the PANDA Study.

Independent Researcher, PSYC 395 – The Circle Lab, UNC Chapel Hill — Spring 2025–Present

- Conducted an **IRB-approved study** on neuroscience-informed parent engagement and early language development.
- Designed and analyzed the **PANDA Parent Survey**, gaining experience in Qualtrics data security and private data handling.
- Created the **PANDA Study website** (<https://www.thepandastudy.com>) to communicate research goals and participant information.
- Awarded the **Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF, \$4,000)** to fund this independent project.

Honors Researcher, PSYC 693–694H – The PANDA Study, UNC Chapel Hill — Fall 2025–Spring 2026

- Designed the **PANDA Intervention**, a neuroscience-based early learning program integrating parent neuroscience education and a child “Learning Lab” interface (ages 3–5).
- Updated IRB protocols for family recruitment and intervention participation.
- Received the **David Bray Peele Memorial Research Award (\$250)** to compensate participating families.
- Expanding the study into a longitudinal model connecting neuroplasticity, early cognitive enrichment, and policy relevance.

Finalist & Participant, Duke/UNC Advancing Diversity in Aging Research (ADAR) — Fall 2024–Spring 2025

- Trained in cognitive aging, resilience, and lifespan developmental frameworks through equity-focused mentorship.
- Applied lifespan theories to link early and later-life interventions across the developmental spectrum.

PRESENTATIONS

Brooks, R. (April 2025). *Maximizing early brain development in underserved children*. Poster presented at the Scholarship & Social Justice Undergraduate Research Conference, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

Brooks, R. (April 2025). *Maximizing early brain development in underserved children*. Poster presented at the Celebration of Undergraduate Research, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC.

Brooks, R. (April 2025). *Maximizing early brain development in underserved children*. Poster presented at the National Psychology Summit, Psi Beta National Honor Society, Virtual.

LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIPS

Executive Board Member, Community Events, Carolina Neuroscience Club (August 2025–Present)

- Coordinated and promoted neuroscience outreach events, increasing attendance by 30% through targeted community partnerships, social media, and active engagement.
- Collaborate with fellow board members, faculty, and partner organizations to plan and execute events that foster interest in neuroscience.

Treasurer & Inaugural Executive Board Member, Black Minds in Neuro (March 2025–Present)

- Managed club budget and secured \$800 in additional funding for new initiatives by presenting successful proposals to the UNC Senate.

Member, Alpha Alpha Alpha (Tri-Alpha) First-Generation Honor Society, Alpha Rho Chapter (Fall 2025–Present)

- Recognized for academic excellence and leadership as a first-generation college student.

Member, Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology (March 2025–Present)

- Actively engaged in psychology-related academic and professional development activities.

Member, Mentorship Committee (Black on Track), Union of Black Men (September 2024–Present)

- Mentored first-year students, guiding them through their transition and helping them plan future semesters for a well-rounded education.

Member, The Leadership Alliance, Brown University (Summer 2024–Present)

- Completed The Leadership Alliance Virtual Professional Development Series, gaining comprehensive knowledge of the research process and graduate school application experience.
- Developed a strong researcher identity and readiness for advanced research endeavors in pursuit of a graduate degree.

Member, McNair Scholars Program (Fall 2024–Fall 2024)

- Participated in the McNair Scholars Program for one semester, gaining experience in academic research and professional development.
- Earned the **SEOPP \$500 Survivor Scholarship** for an essay submitted to the McNair Promising Practices Institute.

Executive Vice President, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society (Fall 2023–Spring 2024)

- Oversaw the board and facilitated coordinating activities and initiatives for the honor society.
- Supported leadership development and member engagement through various projects and events.

SKILLS AND CERTIFICATIONS

- **Programming & analysis:** Python, R, Excel (advanced), Jamovi, Qualtrics
- **Creative writing & editing:** Author of 12 published books (10 fiction, 2 nonfiction)
- **Research & writing:** Academic writing, data visualization, literature review synthesis
- **Certification:** Data Analytics Certificate, University of North Carolina at Charlotte (November 2023)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Cash Data Analyst, SOMPO International (Remote, Full-Time)

June 2023—Present

- Reconciled \$126M in receivables and automated financial reporting using Python, R, and Excel.

Marketing Manager & Publishing Associate, Prodigy Gold Books

Philadelphia, PA (2009-2019)

Charlotte, NC (2019-2023)

November 2009—April 2023

- Managed editorial content, book production, and marketing analytics for a publishing firm; supported over a decade of creative development, author outreach, and press operations. Collaborated on editing, finance, and marketing strategy using SQL, Python, and Excel.