

# ERICA S. TOWNSEND, M.S.

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Dartmouth College**, Lab Instructor and Teaching Assistant

Aug 2021 – Jun 2023

*Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences*

- Managed an intensive 10-week laboratory-based course on human and animal neuroanatomy, behavioral data collection in animal models, and science writing
- Designed and led lectures for upper-level courses in addiction, sensory systems, and behavior, as well as large (60+ students) introductory courses in neuroscience.
- Generated written and practical exams for more than 60 undergraduate students over a year
- Earned the Marie A. Center 1982 Award for teaching quality and dedication to pedagogy and mentorship

**Dartmouth College**, Graduate Researcher

Aug 2020 – Present

*Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences*

- Executing more than five distinct research projects investigating neural circuits underlying motivation, habit formation, and behavioral vulnerabilities to developing substance use disorders, winning three awards for research excellence
- Published a first author peer-reviewed empirical article with five more in press and prep (three first author, two coauthor), in less than five years
- Presented research findings at more than 10 professional conferences and symposia (10+ posters, two symposium talks), in addition to regular (two to three times annually) project progress updates to colleagues and faculty
- Established a novel behavioral data analysis procedure and launched a new cutting-edge neural recording technique
- Supervised a team of more than 15 undergraduate and graduate lab members and provided hands-on training and professional mentorship in experimental design and ethics, data collection and analysis, and wet lab techniques

## ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

**USA Brain Bee**, Regional Coordinator

Aug 2021 – June 2024

*Upper Valley Chapter*

- Directed a group of 30+ graduate students and faculty to engage the local community in neuroscience
- Organized annual lectures at local high schools, a neuroscience showcase accessible to the public, and a brain trivia competition

## AWARDS AND HONORS

**Marie A. Center 1982 Award for Excellence in Research**

June 2024

*Dartmouth College*

**Neukom Award**

July 2023

*The Neukom Institute for Computational Science at Dartmouth College*

**Marie A. Center 1982 Award for Excellence in Teaching**

July 2023

*Dartmouth College*

**Outstanding Graduate Woman in Learning Award**

June 2022

*Women in Learning; International Behavioral Neuroscience Society*

## EDUCATION

**Dartmouth College** Hanover, NH

Expected Graduation: June 2025

*Ph.D., Psychological and Brain Sciences*

*Concentration: Systems and Behavioral Neuroscience*

**Dartmouth College** Hanover, NH

June 2024

*M.S., Psychological and Brain Sciences*

**Virginia Tech** Blacksburg, VA

May 2020

*B.S., Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience, Magna Cum Laude*

*B.S., Psychology, Magna Cum Laude*

## SKILLS & EXPERTISE

### Technical & Lab Skills

Experimental design and management; Scientific writing; Electrophysiology (*in vivo*); Fiber photometry (*in vivo*); Optogenetics (*in vivo*); Behavioral pharmacology; Stereotactic surgery; Animal care and handling; Behavioral analysis; Neural signal processing and analysis

### Programming & Computer Proficiencies

Python; R/RStudio; MedPC; Adobe Illustrator, InDesign, and Acrobat; Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint