

Abigail Hsiung

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📖 EDUCATION

Duke University

Ph.D. Psychology and Neuroscience, Cognitive Neuroscience

GPA: 4.00

2017 – 2023 (anticipated)

Durham, NC

University of Maryland

B.S. Psychology, B.S. Kinesiology

GPA: 3.97, *Summa Cum Laude*

2012 – 2015

College Park, MD

🏢 EXPERIENCE

Doctoral Researcher – Motivation and Information Search

2017 – Present

Duke University, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience

Durham, NC

- » Developed and led multiple research initiatives investigating the relationship between motivational states and information seeking behaviors, specific topics include information search under curiosity and evidence accumulation towards belief formation
- » Designed and implemented behavioral experiments (JavaScript/Vue.js, Python/PsychoPy), including stimulus creation, usability testing, A/B testing, eye-tracking methodologies (Tobii), deployed to over 2000 participants
- » Performed advanced data manipulation (Python/Pandas) and statistical analyses (R, Python), including mixed-effects regression, computational modeling, latent variable analyses, principal component analyses, and semantic similarity analyses using NLP
- » Won competitive grants (\$10,000) and fellowships (\$38,000/year, 3 years) for research funding from local Foundations (Charles Lafitte Foundation) and federal agencies (Department of Defense, National Defense Science and Engineering Fellowship, ~4% fund rate)
- » Delivered key insights through 2 first-author publications (submitted), 1 invited talk, and 8 conference presentations [[example presentations and data visualizations](#)]

Co-Founder – Cognitive Neuroscience Research Internship

2020 – Present

Duke University, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience [[website](#)]

Durham, NC

- » Started initiative to promote equitable access to cognitive research; created structured, collaborative internship program specializing in providing foundational skills in experimental design and Python programming to STEM students from underrepresented groups
- » Secured funding (\$37,000/year) from local Foundations (Charles Lafitte Foundation)
- » Designed courses in Python Programming for Experimental Design using Google Collab [[example lectures](#)]
- » Led program development, including creating and evaluating mission goals, assessing recruitment strategies, standardizing research goals and mentorship practices, organizing faculty and industry panels

Research Analyst – Varied Projects

2015 – 2017

National Institute of Mental Health

Bethesda, MD

- » Coordinated multiple research projects, including organizing multi-visit studies, regulating data management, supporting communication between physicians and clients, deploying experimental and survey methodologies
- » Conducted behavioral and neuroimaging analyses (SPSS/ANFI) examining the impact of anxiety on memory
- » Presented findings to expert and non-expert audiences through 5 publications, 3 conference presentations

⚙️ SKILLS

Quantitative: Computational Modeling, Experimental Design, Survey Methods, NLP Semantic Analyses

Languages/Tools: Python, JavaScript, HTML/CSS, R, BASH, SPSS, Qualtrics, OpenMaze