

NICOLE SAHRLING

San Diego, CA | nsahrling [at] ucsd.edu | [LinkedIn](#)

Education

University of California, San Diego
B.S. Psychology (Honors Program) | GPA: 4.0
Las Positas College
AA-T Psychology | GPA: 4.0
Graduated with distinction

San Diego, CA
September 2024 - June 2026
Livermore, CA
January 2023 - August 2024

Honors & Awards

Regents Scholarship (UCSD) 2024 - 2026
Undergraduate Research Fellowship (UCSD, Department of Psychology) 2025

Research Experience

Visual Learning Lab March 2025 - Present
Honors Thesis Student | PI: Dr. Bria Long, UC San Diego

- Leading a full-time summer + yearlong honors project investigating 4 to 9 year old children's visual concept production across drawing and linguistic modalities to quantify children's multimodal concept knowledge.
- Building end-to-end machine learning pipelines in Python (PyTorch, TensorFlow, scikit-learn) to extract embedding representations and quantify visual-linguistic alignment in children's multimodal drawing-speaking samples, informing ongoing lab publications and conference talks.
- Collaborating closely with faculty and graduate researchers to design experiments, interpret results, and situate findings within current literature.

Social Cognition and Learning Lab September 2024 - March 2025
Research Assistant | PI: Dr. Lindsey Powell, UC San Diego

- Conducted behavioral studies on children's social reasoning (8 mo-7 yrs), managing participant data collection, coding, and statistical analysis in R.

BRAIN Lab June 2024 - August 2024
Summer Research Assistant | PI: Dr. Lisa Eyler, UC San Diego

- Conducted structured empathy and compassion measurements through structured interviews, qualitative coding.

Presentations

Sahrling, N., Haskins, A.J., Sepuri, T., Long, B. (2025, August). *Tracing Children's Multimodal Production of Visual Concepts Across Development*. Talk presented at the Summer Undergraduate Research Conference, UC San Diego.
Sahrling, N., Keller, I. (2024, May). *Brainspotting: A Way Through the Silent Epidemic*. Talk presented at the Bay Honors Consortium Research Symposium, Stanford University.

Leadership & Service

Scholars Society (UCSD) November 2024 - Present
Co-President

- Leading programming for a 1700+ member merit scholar community, organizing events focused on connection, mentorship, and growth. Previously served as Social Co-Chair (2024-2025)

Psychology Club (Las Positas College) August 2023 - May 2024
Inter-Club Council Representative

- Facilitated cross-club events and boosted participation across student organizations.

Teaching Experience

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, PSYC 101 – Developmental Psychology (Heyman) Fall 2025

Work Experience

Tutu School Union City

January 2023 - August 2024

Ballet Teacher

- Taught ballet to children ages 18 months to 8 years. Cultivated joyful, developmentally attuned learning environments.

State Opera Stara Zagora

August 2021 - October 2022

Professional Ballerina

- Performed internationally, building cross-cultural communication and teamwork under high-performance environments.

Skills & Interests

Technical Skills: Python, R, Bash | CLIP, InternVL, BERT | head mounted eye tracking | PyTorch, TensorFlow, scikit-learn, NumPy, pandas

Research Interests: Cognitive & developmental psychology, visual attention, eye tracking, visual concept representation, drawing, language acquisition, naturalistic paradigms, large scale data analysis, multimodal concept acquisition

Creative Interests: Science communication, cross-disciplinary collaboration, ballet