NICOLE SAHRLING

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

Education

University of California, San Diego	San Diego, CA
*B.S. Psychology	GPA: 4.0*	*September 2024 - June 2026*
Las Positas College	Livermore, CA
*AA-T Psychology	GPA: 4.0*	*January 2023 - August 2024*
Graduated with distinction	

Honors & Awards

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

Research Experience

Visual Learning Learning Lab — March 2025 - Present
Honors Thesis Student | PI: Dr. Bria Long, UC San Diego
- Designing and leading an honors thesis project investigating visual concept production across children's drawings and linguistic descriptions.
- Conducting original analyses comparing children's and adults' conceptual representations to test hypotheses about modality-specific and cross-modal knowledge.
- 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
- Ran studies with children (8 months to 7 years) on group membership and social reasoning.
- Coded and analyzed behavioral data; presented findings in lab meetings.
- Contributed to collaborative discussions with senior researchers.

BRAIN Lab — June 2024 - August 2024
Summer Research Assistant | PI: Dr. Lisa Eyler, UC San Diego
- Conducted structured interviews using the MINI to evaluate empathy and compassion.
- Studied interpersonal dynamics and support strategies in mental health peer groups.

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 350+ member 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 (Planned)

Work Experience

Tutu School Union City — January 2023 - August 2024
Ballet Teacher

- Taught ballet to children ages 18 months to 8 yearsCultivated joyful, developmentally attuned learning environments

State Opera Stara Zagora August 2021 - October 2022
Professional Ballerina
- Performed internationally; developed cultural awareness and communication skills.
- Collaborated with a global team under high-pressure, high-performance conditions.

Skills & Interests

Technical Skills: Python, R, Datavyu, Excel
Research Interests: Cognitive and developmental psychology, visual perception, theory of mind, multimodal representation, statistical learning, naturalistic paradigms, computational models (CLIP, BART), PyTorch, statistical learning mechanisms, early word learning…
Creative Interests: Science communication, cross-disciplinary collaboration, reading, event planning, ballet…