

NICOLE SAHRLING

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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

Research Experience

Visual Learning Lab

March 2025 - Present

Honors Thesis Student | PI: Dr. Bria Long, UC San Diego

- Leading a year-long honors thesis involving in-person data collection from 120+ children (ages 2–11), including participant recruitment, scheduling, parent communication, and family-facing interactions at a local aquarium to investigate multimodal conceptual development through drawing and language.
- Developing data analysis pipelines in Python/R (PyTorch, TensorFlow, scikit-learn, CLIP) to extract representation embeddings from 1300+ drawings/transcripts and investigate statistical techniques for high-dimensional data.
- Collaborating closely with faculty, graduate researchers, and undergraduate assistants to support ongoing publications and presentations (e.g. IU Bloomington colloquium, Meta), co-develop a new lab-wide secure participant data management system, and support science communication and community outreach with diverse family populations at local science museums.
- Contributing to lab operations, including internal documentation, ethics compliance, research assistant mentoring, and workflow organization using collaborative scheduling tools.

Social Cognition and Learning Lab

September 2024 - March 2025

Research Assistant | PI: Dr. Lindsey Powell, UC San Diego

- Ran behavioral experiments with infants through early childhood (8 mos–7 yrs), managed participant data collection via Qualtrics and Excel, gaze coding using Datavyu, and recruited participants via email.

BRAIN Lab

June 2024 - August 2024

Summer Research Assistant | PI: Dr. Lisa Eyler, UC San Diego

- Conducted interviews and qualitative coding for projects investigating measures of empathy and compassion.

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.

Honors & Awards

Regents Scholarship (UCSD)

2024 - 2026

Undergraduate Research Fellowship (UCSD, Department of Psychology)

2025

Leadership & Service

Scholars Society (UCSD)

November 2024 - Present

Co-President

- Managing a 1700+ member scholar organization and 20-person board by coordinating meetings, calendars, workflows, and quarterly programming.
- Providing mentorship and organizational leadership to undergraduate board members through delegation, milestone tracking, and communication oversight; formerly served as Social Co-Chair where I led event planning, outreach, and community engagement.

Teaching Experience

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, PSYC 101 – Developmental Psychology (Dr. Gail Heyman)

Fall 2025

Work Experience

Tutu School Union City

Ballet Teacher

January 2023 - August 2024

- Taught children ages 18 months–8 years, developing expertise interacting with infants and families, facilitating warm, developmentally sensitive learning environments for diverse communities.

State Opera Stara Zagora

Professional Ballerina

August 2021 - October 2022

- Performed internationally, strengthening cross-cultural communication, teamwork, and adaptability in demanding environments.

Skills & Interests

Technical Skills: Python, R, Bash | CLIP, InternVL, BERT | head-mounted eye tracking | PyTorch, TensorFlow, scikit-learn, NumPy, pandas | experiment design, online data collection platforms (Qualtrics, Datavyu), lab operations and scheduling tools (e.g. Asana)

Research Interests: Cognitive & developmental psychology, neuroimaging, visual attention, eye tracking, neural & behavioral bases of concepts, drawing, language acquisition, naturalistic paradigms, high-dimensional data analysis

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