

## EDUCATION

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### University of Georgia (UGA)

Ph.D., Developmental Psychology

Spring 2028

M.S., Psychology

Spring 2025

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

Supervisor: Dr. Drew Abney

Current GPA: 4.0

### University of Alabama (UA)

Bachelor of Science in Biology | Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Fall 2022

Minors: Spanish and Liberal Arts

GPA: 3.878

Psychology major GPA: 4.270

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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### Developmental Dynamics Lab

Aug 2023-present

Psychology Department, University of Georgia

Supervisor: Dr. Drew Abney

*Graduate Research Assistant*

- Leads home visits for the Infant Sleep and Movement Project
- Processes and analyzes actigraphy and electrocardiogram (ECG) data
- Creating an R package for the analysis and visualization of multimodal, time-series data
- Analyzes respiratory sinus arrhythmia (RSA) and salivary cortisol data in mother-child dyads from the Family Interactions Project (FIP)
  - Analyzing physiological (RSA) synchrony across time-frequency domains in mother-child dyads using wavelet coherence
- Exploring appropriateness of various classes of machine-learning algorithms in prediction of behavioral states based on time-series, physiological data in developmental populations
- Manages a team of undergraduate Research Assistants as they behaviorally code and clean data from various project and conduct their own independent research
- Conducted and published a meta-analysis of language and joint attention

### Salekin Lab

2021-2023

Psychology Department, University of Alabama

Supervisor: Dr. Randy Salekin

*Undergraduate Research Assistant*

- Conducted a meta-analysis of electroencephalogram (EEG) data and psychopathy in R
- Trained in conducting social interaction behavioral assessments
- Conducted a literature review of genetic mechanisms underlying the two-factor model of psychopathy

Biology Department, University of Alabama

2019-2020

Supervisor: Dr. Julie Olson

*Undergraduate Research Assistant*

- Aided a doctoral student in examining the role of gut microbiome in outcomes for birds in wildlife rehabilitation centers
- Plated bacteria and examined colony count and morphology
- Conducted DNA extraction and PCR

## PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

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- Steffen, G.** (2022). Genetic and environmental factors underlying the two-factor model of psychopathy: a meta-analysis. *BioFest*
- Ellington, S.J., Harris, J.A., **Steffen, G.**, & Abney, D. (2024). Examining the Relationship Between Salivary Cortisol and Income in Mother Child Dyads During a Stressful Task. *Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities Symposium*.
- Steffen, G.**, Jerry, C., Bell, C., Kohlberg, A., Patel, B., & Abney, D. (2024). The Operationalization of Coordinated Attention and the Relations to Language Development: A Meta-analysis. *Advances in Child Development and Behavior (Vol. 66)*.
- Jerry, C., **Steffen, G.**, Bell, C., Kohlberg, A., Patel, B., & Abney, D. (2024). The Operationalization of Coordinated Attention and the Relations to Language Development: A Meta-analysis. *Biannual Meeting of the International Congress for Infant Studies*.

## HONORS, AWARDS, AND CERTIFICATES

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Certification in Quantitative Methods in Family and Social Sciences (UGA)	Expected 2026
Significant Contributions to Research in Psychology (UA)	2022
President's List (UA)	2020-2022
National Merit Scholarship (UA)	2018-2022
Dean's List (UA)	2018-2019

## MEMBERSHIPS AND PROGRAMS

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Member, Society for Research in Child Development	2025-present
Member, International Congress of Infant Studies	2024-present
Mentor, Psychology Undergraduate Mentorship Program (PUMP)	2023-present
Committee Member, Diversity Committee, UGA Psychology Department	2023-present
Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity	2019-2022
<i>Served as Merchandise Advisor on Executive Board</i>	2020-2022
Emerging Scholars Program	2019-2022
Blount Scholars Program	2018-2022
Honors College	2018-2020

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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<b>Teaching Assistant</b>	Spring 2025
Psychology Department, University of Georgia	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Graded assignments and assisted students with labs and R code in PSYC 6430 Applied Regression course</li> </ul>	
<b>Teaching Assistant</b>	Fall 2023
Psychology Department, University of Georgia	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Graded assignments and assisted students in PSYC 4150 Biological Health Psychology course</li> </ul>	
<b>Genetics Tutor</b>	2022
Capstone Center for Student Success, University of Alabama	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Led drop-in tutoring for BSC 315 Genetics course</li> </ul>	
<b>Academic Peer Coach</b>	2021-2022
Capstone Center for Student Success, University of Alabama	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided academic coaching in weekly one-on-one sessions for undergraduate students</li> <li>Led skill session presentations on topics such as time management, study skills, and test anxiety</li> <li>Received Level Two CRLA certification</li> </ul>	
<b>Research Coach</b>	2021
Mentorship Program, North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guided high school students through independent research through one-on-one and small group meetings</li> <li>Graded and provided feedback on assignments</li> </ul>	

- Taught lessons on research skills, like academic writing, APA formatting, and maintaining mentorship relationships

### **Lead Student Assistant**

2019-2020

Area of Computing Services, UA Libraries

- Managed a team of undergraduate student assistants

### **Student Assistant**

2018-2019

Area of Computing Services, UA Libraries

- Maintained computers and other technology across the four main libraries at UA
- Provided technical support for library staff

## **MENTORSHIP**

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|----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Nandita Bhat (2023)      | • Gloria Del Toro (2023-2024)    | • Samantha Sands (2024-present)    |
| • Avery Hughes (2023-2024) | • Alexa Kightlinger (2023-2025)  | • Shreya Lakshmisha (2025-present) |
| • Ava McDonald (2023-2024) | • Angeline Justus (2024-present) |                                    |
| • Neelie Perno (2023-2024) | • Jade Harris (2024-present)     |                                    |

## **SKILLS**

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| • Programming: R, Python, HTML and CSS, Java       | • Data analysis and visualization in R |
| • Advanced Spanish; Spanish Medical Interpretation | • Graphic design: Photoshop, Procreate |