

*Laboratory for the Study of Eating, Appearance, & Health
(LEAH)*

Dr. Stacey Dunn, Director

Research Opportunities

Thank you for your interest in our research program. At the Laboratory for the Study of Eating, Appearance, and Healthy (LEAH), graduate and undergraduate students work with me as a research team dedicated to understanding more about body image, eating disturbance, and a variety of other health-related topics. If you are interested in applying for a research assistant position, please read over this information carefully and fill out the attached application. Please bring your application to our lab, which is located in Room 133 in the Psychology Building. A graduate student from the lab will review your application and contact you regarding the possibility of an interview.

Some of the main projects currently underway include:

- ◆ Body image across the lifespan
- ◆ Media effects on body image
- ◆ Parenting and body image
- ◆ Cognitive aspects of body image disturbance
- ◆ Coping with body image dissatisfaction
- ◆ Interpersonal influences on the development of body image and eating disturbance

As a research assistant in LEAH, you will be given an opportunity to participate in these and other studies. Participation generally involves assisting with:

- ◆ Preparation for data collection (scheduling data collection sessions, contacting participants to schedule or confirm appointments, etc.)
- ◆ Data collection (this typically involves administering surveys, running participants through experiments, showing videotapes, weight/measuring participants, etc.)
- ◆ Data entry (includes appropriate training in SPSS to compute descriptive and correlational statistics)
- ◆ Literature review (requires learning and using PsycInfo)
- ◆ Project development (your creativity and knowledge of body image and research design will determine the extent of your input in this area)

Options:

You can participate in LEAH as a volunteer or you can register for course credit. We prefer that research assistants volunteer in the lab for at least one semester before registering for credit. If you do register for credit, the minimum commitment required is 2 credits. You are expected to work three hours in the lab for every credit hour, so if you register for 2 credits, you must work 6 hours. As a volunteer, a minimum commitment of 6 hours per week is expected.

Requirements:

- ◆ All research assistants are expected to sign up for and attend regular LEAH office hours. Your scheduled hours will depend upon your class and work schedule as well as our project needs. We are fairly flexible with the times you can select, but the numbers of hours per week is strongly enforced. Again, you are expected to put in three hours of work for every credit hour. Not all of your hours will be “office hours,” but **to receive a satisfactory grade, you must be in the lab as scheduled and as needed, and complete all assignments in a timely and professional manner.**
- ◆ All research assistants are expected to attend our research team meetings. We meet each week at a time scheduled at the beginning of the semester. At these meetings you will be asked to present current research findings in our area, provide updates on the progress of your particular assignments, and contribute to the generate of new research ideas. Although emergencies and unusual circumstances may sometimes prevent students from attending, **a satisfactory grade depends upon regular attendance at meetings** (generally no more than two absences per semester).

Grading:

All research assistants who are registered for credit will receive a grade of either S (satisfactory) or U (unsatisfactory) at the end of the semester. Sorry, but no letter grades are available.

If you have any further questions, please e-mail the lab at leah3872@yahoo.com. If you do not hear back from me or a graduate assistant within ten working days, please send a follow-up e-mail indicating that you are waiting for a reply.

Thanks again for your interest,
Dr. Stacey Dunn

RESEARCH ASSISTANT APPLICATION
Laboratory for the Study of Eating, Appearance, & Health
Please return your completed application to Room 133 in the Psychology Building

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Today's Date: _____

Date you would like to begin participation in LEAH: _____

Anticipated Graduation Date (Month & Year): _____

Overall GPA: _____

Psychology GPA: _____

Do you plan to apply to graduate school?

___ Yes ___ No

If yes, what type of program (e.g., Masters, Ph.D., Psy.D.)? _____

YOUR INTERESTS:

1. What makes you interested in working in LEAH?

2. Based on the projects outlined on the handout accompanying this application, please rank the three projects of most interest to you:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

YOUR BACKGROUND:

1. Describe any previous research experience you have had (include your responsibilities and the extent of your involvement).

2. Please list your previous coursework in statistics and research methods (Note that successful completion of Research Methods is preferred before you begin to work in the lab).

3. Please list any special skills you possess (e.g., SPSS, PsycInfo, etc.).

4. What do you feel you can contribute to our research team?

YOUR AVAILABILITY:

1. What days/times are you available to work in LEAH?

2. How many classes will you be taking while participating? _____

3. How many hours per week are you employed? _____

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE US TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?