

Forensic Lab
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Forensic Lab Overview

Primary Areas of Interest (Active Ongoing Projects):

- Cross-cultural Trauma, Suicide, and Substance Use Crises
- Malingering of PTSD
- Police Crisis Intervention Training
- Violent and General Criminal Offending

Potential Areas Given Student Interest: Gamers & Gaming, potentially online bullying, communications, etc., that can contribute to crisis or suicidality. But open to adjacent areas and tangents.

Openings:

2-3 new members

Apply: Interested students are asked to submit the following to Dr. Weaver by the announced deadline via the email address above. Applications will be considered as they arrive:

Cover letter (2-page max) that includes the following minimum information:

- Research interests
- *Brief* description of current career goals (e.g., professor, clinician, consultant, etc.) and populations of interest (e.g., incarcerated offenders, SMI, Veterans, juveniles, etc.), understanding that these are still flexible at this point.
- List any interest in other areas related to forensic psychology (e.g., suicide risk assessment, sex offenders, training police officers to interact with mental health patients, etc.)
- Rank order of interest in the specific ongoing projects (see project descriptions below)
- Anticipated available start date (Sept. 1st, immediately, etc.). This will become the applicant's official start date, so please indicate carefully.
- Any plans the applicant has to work in multiple research labs should the applicant be accepted into the adult forensic lab.
- Computer software with which the student is particularly skilled (PowerPoint, SPSS, EndNote, etc.) and any programming experience you have, particularly with Mac/iPhone or web page construction and maintenance
- ***Curriculum Vitae***
- ***Writing sample(s)***, preferably something for which the applicant is the primary author. The topic need not be forensic in nature. Send Dr. Weaver the best writing samples! If the applicant chooses to send the paper from Research Methods, please send the original draft (unedited) and the final draft.

Selection: Qualified applicants will be considered by our entire existing research group, as student opinions are critical to maintaining our work environment. Depending on the number of applications, interviews will be conducted by Dr. Weaver and/or by existing lab members. These may be in group or individual format. New students will be selected based on merit, degree of fit with the existing research team and projects, and writing skills.

Notification: Students accepted into the Forensic Research Group will be notified in accordance with PAU policies.

Primary Current Projects:

1. Cross-cultural PTSD, Suicide, and Substance Use - Early-stage projects with current opportunities to collect data.
2. Contributions to culturally considerate PTSD literature (e.g., possibly assessment & prevention)- Inductive & deductive (i.e., Minority Stress, Idioms of Distress, Social Discord, & Cultural Sanctions) coding of peer-reviewed manuscripts utilizing NVivo software.
3. Improving the detection of deception in PTSD assessment – Pre-existing database that students can use, including (MMPI, BDI, PTSD self-report measures).
2. Police Officer Crisis Intervention Training – Archival data from a National VA Police Train-the-trainer Program Evaluation project that was funded by the VA's National Center for PTSD and Veterans Justice Programs Office.

Expectations: There will be numerous expectations of all lab members, including presentations at conferences and potentially writing manuscripts for submission to scientific journals. Research Group participants will be expected to attend lab meetings throughout their participation in the lab (including dissertation year), and to contribute to ongoing projects. Work can be flexible to meet student interests. A high degree of self-motivation and sufficiency, with supporting infrastructure and data, is required.