

# Research At Saint Mary's



## **Why should I do research?**

Research looks good on any resume and is an unofficial prerequisite for graduate school. It gives you experience in research but also presenting at conferences and working in teams. Research also (usually) gives you the opportunity to travel for presentations and allows you to meet new people. The WPA and APA conferences are held all over the country (some examples include San Francisco, Washington DC, Chicago, Hawaii and Colorado).

## **Different types of research:**

- Professor lead teams
- Individual research
- Summer research program

## **Professor lead teams:**

These research teams are led by SMC professors. Professors will have two or three different teams they are working with at any time. Based on their specialty (social, developmental and so on) professors will focus on different subjects, they also decide whether it will be a quantitative or qualitative study.

If you were to gain a position on a research team you will work with 2-3 different people that the professor selects to be on the team with you. Typically professors look for students during the Spring semester since that is usually the time the seniors on the team are phasing out. You will must plan accordingly if you want to be on a team and apply a semester in advance.

Different professors have different processes of getting on one of their teams. Some professors have you learn about their teams and select the one that interests you and other professors have you go through a more formal application process. The first thing you need to do is reach out to your desired professor directly. Ask them what kind of teams they have doing research and what their process is like for getting on one of their teams.

### **Individual research:**

This type of research takes more initiative on the part of the student, the student comes up with a research idea and works on it under a faculty mentor. These research projects/ideas usually come out of the semester-long project you have to do during PSYCH 103. You can work on your own or with a partner of your choosing, so you may be doing more work than the 3-4 person teams.

If you want to work on individual research talk to your PSYCH 103 (or 03) professor to see if the project is viable. They will tell you if you can expand your research further than the work you are doing during the semester. They should be able to offer further guidance on who could be an appropriate mentor.

### **Summer research:**

This is a ten week program over the summer where you collaborate with a faculty advisor of your choice. You (typically) live on campus during the summer and get a stipend of \$4000. Participants go to events with other students in the program like BBQs, research meetings and field trips. You end the summer with a written research report, an oral presentation and a presentation at the Brousseau poster session held in the fall semester.

Research begins in early June, right after spring semester is finished.

You must be in the school of science and planning to return to classes in the fall (no graduating seniors). There is a 3 page application to fill out, they also need your unofficial transcript and a letter of recommendation from an SMC faculty member.

The process starts in December so you have to start thinking about it early if this is the type of research you want to do. Applications are due by February, preliminary selection is announced in March and the final acceptance deadline is in May.

