Department of Psychology
Faculty Research Interests 2026-2027

Asberg → Stress and resilience; interpersonal violence; and substance use and misuse.

Boan-Lenzo → Educational reform, empirically validated practices and interventions in educational settings, and asexuality. Burnout in Psychologists.

Broomell → Neurodevelopment of executive function, neuroconnectivity measured using EEG, prefrontal cortex development, social cognition, autism spectrum disorder and early life adversity.

Buie → Social neuroscience, bias, gender, social cognition, group processes, and intergroup relations.

Castelblanco → How nature exposure affects health and well-being, particularly social health; how social relationships impact health and well-being

de Jong → Motives for, predictors of, and experiences of masturbation, sex toy use, and pornography use.

Frary → Community-Based Participatory Research; health promotion among communities facing health stigma, including people living with HIV, people who use drugs, and LGBTQ+ populations; interplay of spirituality/religiosity and resilience; faith-based and/or culturally-tailored health-promotion; harm reduction

Gangel → Adolescent and emerging adult development of health and well-being. Some current projects include examining the role of weight stigmatization on pelvic floor health and cardiometabolic health in emerging adults, and the role of pubertal timing and sexual education on well-being.

Grande → Promoting positivity; traits and behaviors related to psychological resilience

Lutken → Psycholinguistics, especially language development and language use and the relevant underlying cognitive mechanisms, the syntax-semantics interface, dialect use and stereotyping.

Malesky → Academic integrity & dishonesty; law-enforcement related issues; psychology & law.

Myers → Interpersonal consequences of high self-esteem; A.I. in the classroom.

Najm → Maternal mental health (e.g., perinatal and postpartum period) and early childhood; evaluating integrated behavioral health care models and interventions in maternal-serving settings; psychometrics and culturally responsive instrument development; mixed methods & qualitative research

Rogers → Sociocultural influences on body image and eating behaviors; promotion of protective factors against eating disorders (e.g., mindfulness, self-compassion); treatment accessibility; perinatal health equity.

Roth → Animal-assisted intervention and therapy, evidence-based treatment form children and adolescents, community- and school-based interventions, and the impact of prevention/intervention on children exposed to violence.

Scales → Advanced psychometric and statistical procedures applied to unusual populations; item response theory; structural equation modeling; latent structure modeling; cognitive diagnostic modeling; standard-setting and equating techniques applied to small samples and atypical populations; the mechanics of slut-shaming as a specialized form of intrasexual bullying; applications of advanced modeling to K-12 teacher efficacy and visioning.

Solomon → Child maltreatment and interpersonal violence prevention, intervention, and outcomes; improving mental health outcomes for underserved populations; LGBTQ mental health and resilience; psychological measurement.

Whatley → Motivational influences on memory performance, healthy cognitive aging, attitudes toward

aging, curiosity and interest in learning and memory.

Wilson → Occupational health psychology, measurement and outcomes of workplace cyberaggression, cyberbullying among youth, personality/dark personality in the employment setting, employee and student burnout, meaningful work, hospitality and tourism workforce challenges

Winkelman → Approaches to learning/academic enablers; disability assessment and outcomes; school psychological practice; educational measurement; social emotional learning measurement and intervention