



Undergraduate Research Assistant Application

Thank you for your interest in joining the FREEDOM Lab! Before applying to be a research assistant, please visit our lab website to learn more about the lab and make sure this is a good fit for your interests: <https://www.calstatela.edu/research/freedomlab> . Also be sure to review the last page of this application, which outlines expectations and requirements for the position.

To apply, please fill out the application below and submit the application *and* your resume to Dr. Dana Saifan at dsaifan@calstatela.edu . After your application is reviewed, you will be contacted with information regarding next steps, which may include a virtual interview before being accepted to the lab.

Name:

Email:

Semesters you'd like to be an RA

Fall 2024

Spring 2025

Summer 2025

(please check all that apply):

Fall 2025

Spring 2026

Hours you would like to commit weekly to the lab:

Semesters until graduation:

Major:

GPA:

Please describe why you are interested in joining this lab:

Please describe what makes you a strong candidate for this position:

Please describe any prior research experience you have (include any statistics or research methods training you may have):

Please describe any other relevant experience or skills you may have:

Please describe the other commitments you will have during the semesters you would like to RA, and discuss how you will manage your time to meet all responsibilities.

Please confirm that you have read the expectations and requirements on the following page, and agree to a minimum 2-semester commitment and enrollment in PSY 4990 each semester.

Yes, I confirm and agree

No, I do not confirm or agree

FREEDOM Lab Expectations and Requirements for Research Assistants (RAs)

1. RAs are volunteers. Currently, the lab does not have funding to pay RAs for their work. However, students may apply to on- and off-campus funding opportunities to receive research stipends (this is not guaranteed).
2. RAs are expected to commit a minimum of 2 semesters to the lab. This requirement allows RAs to get adequately trained and to receive a meaningful research experience.
3. During involvement in the lab, RAs will be required to enroll in at least 1 unit of PSY 4990 – Undergraduate Directed Study. Students will need to spend a minimum of 3 hours each week for each unit of credit.
4. RAs are expected to commit an average of at least 5 hours each week to the lab. Time spent in the lab may fluctuate week-to-week based on the needs of the lab. RAs' schedules will be created in collaboration with the professor at the start of each semester.
5. Lab work will be a combination of virtual and in-person, depending on the needs of the lab and the resources available to RAs (e.g., having a computer with access to the necessary software).
6. RA duties will vary based on the needs of the lab and the status of active projects. Duties may include, but are not limited to, conducting literature reviews, assisting with data collection, data entry, statistical analyses using various programs, and assisting with presentations and publications.
7. RAs are expected to demonstrate professionalism, including being communicative with the professor and other lab members, being punctual, and performing tasks and duties by deadlines.
8. At the beginning of the RA position, the student and professor will meet individually to discuss goals and expectations. An individualized mentorship plan will be created for each student, so that each student's individual needs and goals are met. This plan will be reviewed at the beginning of each semester.
9. RAs will participate in individual meetings with the professor and lab meetings with all lab members (including undergraduate and graduate students). Scheduling of these meetings will be decided at the beginning of the semester.
10. RAs will have the opportunity to present posters at research conferences, if it is their desire to do so.