



Latino Alcohol and Health Disparities Training and Research Center

Requirements for student collaboration



The Centers Mission and Purpose

- Conduct alcohol related research*
- Conduct research related to the application of Self-Determination Theory to the process and maintenance of behavior change
- Conduct research related to of positive psychology to determine the validity of their application to behavior change and maintenance of behavior change in the context of alcohol use disorders.
- Conduct research to identify cultural risk and protective factors related to drinking among Hispanics
- Provide training in Motivational Interviewing to the community
- Conduct program evaluation of trainings in the community

* Although the primary outcome (or key contributing factor, moderator, mediator etc.) is alcohol, there are many areas of interest that can applied to alcohol.

Every collaborator at the Center must serve as member of a Research Team:

- When you conduct research in isolation of the research team you deny yourself the opportunity to learn from and help others
- In addition, you deny others the opportunity to learn about your research and contribute to its improvement
- In sum, you suffer and your research suffers, your peers and their research suffer and the Center suffers
- Achieving this goal involves, at a minimum, two things
 - Attendance at the Research Meetings*
 - Attendance at Journal Club*
 - Attendance at Individual Progress Meeting*
 - Maintain 10 hours/week at the Center

* Failure to consistently engage in these activities will be reflected in your grade for Research Applications, Independent Studies, Thesis or Dissertation

Undergraduates

To be eligible to work at the Center undergraduates must:

- Maintain a GPA of no less than 3.0
- Intend to submit applications for graduate school
- Have at least one full year remaining, preferably two
- Attend at least three Center Research Meeting before given the opportunity to continue attending the Center's Research Meeting following an interview with the Director
- After attending a Center Research Meeting for the sixth time, the undergraduate should identify a project they want to contribute to and obtain agreement from that graduate student for them to mentor you
- Undergraduates must be mentored by a Graduate Student (Masters or Doctorate). It is up to the graduate student to decide if they will mentor the undergrad and what they will be asking them to do. This should be established within approximately two months of their initial attendance to a Center Research Meeting
- Completion of an Honors Thesis is strongly recommended (an Honors Thesis demonstrates independent research which enhances letters of recommendation and likelihood of admission to graduate school)
- Regular attendance at the Center Research Meeting
- Regular attendance at Journal Club
- Presentation at Journal Club once per semester
- Maintain no less than 5 office hours per week
- Attend and present at Journal Club

Pre-Graduate students

- Required to meet the same requirement as Undergraduates with the exception that they should conceptualize a study that is Center related and well aligned with work they might pursue as a graduate student
- If approved, an IRB application for that study may be prepared and submitted
- Maintain at least 10 office hours per week

Requirements for All Graduate Students

- Intention to conduct research that is well aligned with the research mission of the Center
- Contribute to the development of research conducted at the Center
- Per departmental requirements, maintain an Independent Development Plan (IDP)
- Per departmental requirements, a pre-determined written product is required for completion of Research Applications, Independent Studies, Thesis and Dissertation
- Maintain up to date information on studies/publications ("The Board")
- Regular attendance at Center Research Meetings
- Attend the Psychology Department's weekly colloquium
- Attend Journal Club

- Attend individual meeting for graduate students
- All posters must include data analysis that suggests a viable poster for presentation
- All posters must be presented to the research team with (enough time must remain prior to formal presentation to allow for recommended modifications)
- All first year projects, theses and dissertations must be presented twice to research team (enough time must remain prior to formal presentation to allow for recommended modifications)
- Mentor undergraduate students
- All poster abstract must be submitted for review to the Center Director no later than one week prior to submission or sufficient time to allow for recommended modifications
- Attend and present poster at Research Society on Alcoholism annually
- Association for Behavior and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT), Society for Behavioral Medicine (SBM), Society for Prevention Research (SPR) or other relevant conference with poster presentation can be attended as second conference if desired)
- Also encouraged to submit posters and attend the National Hispanic Science Network
- Complete an additional study for each milestone and submit for publication

Masters Students

- Complete Masters Degree in 2 ½ years
- 2 ½ year timeline:
 - 1st semester: Develop study idea
 - 2nd semester: Write introduction
 - 3rd semester: write methods, submit IRB & Propose Thesis
 - 4th semester: Finish data collection & write results
 - 5th semester: Write discussion and defend thesis
- Attend training in motivational interviewing or other evidence based approach during first year
- Present an article of interest at the Research Meeting once per semester
- Present at least one first author poster at Research Society on Alcoholism each year after the first year
- Conduct one study in addition to the research related to your thesis and prepare a manuscript based on this study
- Collaborate with a doctoral student on research and a publication
- Propose your thesis no later than the end of the third semester in the program
- Revise and submit your thesis document for submission to a journal for publication

Doctoral Students

- Complete Doctorate within 6 years
- Six-year timeline:

- 1st semester: Develop first-year project idea and begin work on that project (secondary data analyses or primary data collection)
- 2nd semester: Complete first-year project work and practice talk at LAHDR meeting near end of the semester
- 3rd semester: Present first-year project at colloquium near beginning of the semester and use the rest of the semester to develop thesis idea
- 4th semester: Write thesis proposal
- 5th semester: Write thesis proposal/propose thesis/thesis data collection
- 6th semester: Thesis data collection/statistical analyses/write thesis defense
- 7th semester: Statistical analyses/write thesis defense/defend thesis
- 8th semester: Write dissertation proposal (should have developed idea while working on thesis)
- 9th semester: Write dissertation proposal/propose dissertation/dissertation data collection
- 10th semester: Dissertation data collection/statistical analyses
- 11th semester: Statistical analyses/write dissertation defense
- 12th semester: Write dissertation defense/defend dissertation

First Year Project

- Complete a first year project under the guidance and direction of the Center Director
- Begin first year project by the middle of the first semester
- Present first year project no later than Oct 1st of your third semester
- Submit first year project for publication no later than the end of the fourth semester

Prior to Candidacy (successful defense of thesis)

- Conduct one study in addition to first year project
- Submit research project for publication prior to thesis defense
- Work with the Center Director to prepare one article for submission on which he is first author

Prior to graduation

- Conduct one study in addition to thesis
- Submit research project for publication prior to dissertation proposal
- Conduct one study in addition to dissertation
- Submit research project for publication prior to dissertation defense

- *Deviations from the guidelines are made on the basis of being fair and reasonable.*
 - Fair to others at the Center who are maintaining the guidelines
 - Reasonable by taking into account individual circumstances

* There is an obligation to submit all manuscripts derived from the research described above (including theses and dissertations).

* The contribution to the scientific literature requires timely publication of research, therefore, active pursuit of publication must be maintained throughout the process.