

# Alaina Wilson

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3 Gentry Hall, University of Missouri

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## Education

**Master of Science & Doctor of Philosophy** in Human Development and Family Science, Expected May 2025

University of Missouri

Advisor: Rachel Thibodeau-Nielsen, Ph.D.

**Bachelor of Science** in Psychology, May 2020

University of Alabama

summa cum laude

GPA: 4.0/4.0

Minor: Spanish

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## Research Experience

**Honors Thesis Candidate**, August 2018-May 2020

*“Examining Children’s Emotion Knowledge as a Mediator of the Relation between Parental Depressive Symptomology and Increased Behavior Problems in Preschoolers”*

Advisor: Ansley Gilpin, Ph.D.

Department of Psychology, University of Alabama

- Develop and complete a research project over 4 semesters under the guidance of a faculty advisor
- Analyze data collected in Knowledge in Development Lab to investigate hypothesis
- Conduct a literature search and write a professional research thesis
- Expected oral presentation and defense of thesis in Spring 2020

**Lead Research Assistant**, August 2017-May 2020

*Knowledge in Development Lab*, University of Alabama

- Assist with longitudinal, federally funded study of Power PATH dual-generation interventions in Head Start elementary schools under Dr. Ansley Gilpin and colleagues
- Lead research team by coordinating assessments, training new RA’s and monitoring assessment fidelity
- Liaise with school administration to arrange data collection and intervention sessions
- Conduct timed behavioral observations in preschool classrooms
- Administer neurocognitive assessments with elementary school children

**Research Assistant**, January 2017-May 2017

*Knowledge in Development Lab*, University of Alabama

- Worked under Ansley Gilpin, Ph.D. and Rachel Thibodeau, Ph.D. on a study funded by the Imagination Institute
  - Facilitate imaginative play interventions with preschool children
  - Conduct neurocognitive assessments with preschool children
  - Code, enter, and organize data from approved projects
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## Teaching Experience

**Teaching Assistant**, August 2020-December 2020

*2400W: Principles of Human Development- Writing Intensive*, University of Missouri

Supervisor: Ashlie Lester, Ph.D.

- Responsible for 2 sections of introductory level writing-intensive human development course
- Plan and record video lectures on formal writing skills
- Create and grade weekly writing assignments for 26 students
- Maintain regular availability to assist students with understanding of course content

**Teaching Assistant**, August 2020-December 2020

*3150W: Child Development (4-8 years)- Writing Intensive*, University of Missouri

Supervisor: Louis Manfra, Ph.D.

- Create lectures to review course content
  - Facilitate student discussion groups regarding course content
  - Create and grade short and long writing assignments for 23 students
  - Maintain regular availability to assist students with understanding of course content
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## Clinical Experience

**Child Mental Health Student**, Fall 2019

*Brewer Porch Children's Center*, University of Alabama

Supervisors: Ross Grimes, Ph.D. and Sara Stromeyer, Ph.D.

- Weekly observation and mentoring at a residential mental health facility for children and adolescents
- Facilitate group activities under supervision
- Observe treatment team meetings, group therapy and other day-to-day operations

**Clinical Intern**, Summer 2017

*Naperville Clinical Services*

- Observed clinical assessments, appointments, and day-to-day operations of private practice
  - Studied administration and scoring processes of clinical assessments such as Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC) and Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS)
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## Awards & Scholarships

- University of Missouri
    - Piper Distinguished Doctoral Fellowship Recipient (Fall 2020)
    - G. Ellsworth Huggins Fellowship Recipient (Fall 2020)
  - University of Alabama
    - Psychology Department Honors Program (2017-2020)  
Selective cohort of 18 psychology students to complete honors thesis with advising faculty
    - President's List (5 semesters)
    - Dean's List (Spring 2018)
    - Honors College Member (2016-2020)
    - Presidential Scholarship (2016-2020)  
Full-tuition scholarship awarded to out-of-state students with an ACT score of 32-36 and a GPA of 3.5 or above
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## Additional Experience

**Peer Advisor**, Fall & Spring 2018

*Department of Psychology*, University of Alabama

- Advised undergraduate psychology majors about career plans and educational opportunities
- Guided peers through degree planning and course registration

**Chief Operating Officer**, January 2018-December 2018

*Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity*, University of Alabama

- Developed and executed risk prevention programming to address risks unique to a 430+ member chapter
- Educated chapter members on health & wellness issues, risk prevention, and chapter expectations
- Planned, organized, and executed various events for anywhere from 30 to 900 attendees
- Chaired Risk Prevention, Member Development and Health & Wellness Committees