

**Application for Position:  
Research Assistant for Dr. D. Lisa Cothran**

**Why This Form?**

I try to conduct one complete study each semester, and more students are interested in gaining experience with the research process than I can use. I am hoping that the form will allow me to create a research team that can best serve my needs and the interests and goals of students. Essentially, there are two reasons I'm doing it this way:

- *I need a high-quality team of research assistants.* My research can be somewhat complex, and I need a group of RAs who are conscientious, reliable, and motivated. This means that I will be looking for students who have either shown me in the past that they have these characteristics, or who can convince me in other ways that they can do the job right.
- *Students need the best experience they can get.* Many students ask to assist in research for the wrong reasons. Just wanting the experience is good, but I need people who are intrinsically motivated on the project. For that reason, I will prioritize applicants who share my interests and whose goals can best be met by working with me.

**My Research Interests**

I am a psychologist by training, specifically in the areas of social and personality. That means that I study the ways in which people differ and the ways in which people think about and interact with other people. For example, I might be more interested in how different people react to being discriminated against. My research usually involves some examination of people's personality traits and how they react to a given situation or experience. I almost always employ an experimental or survey design.

**Your Role in the Research Process**

Your primary role is to assist me with the time consuming aspects of the research process. That participation will take the following forms:

- *Library Research.* I will ask you to conduct a literature search, find articles of interest, and collect them from the library (I'll pay for the paper copies).
- *Data Collection.* I may ask you to run participants through the procedure, following the outline and script that I provide.
- *Data Entry.* I use SPSS to analyze my data, and you will enter on computers the data that you collect.
- *Data Analysis Wrap-up Session.* The whole team will meet after I have analyzed the data. At this point, I will explain what analyses I conducted and explain the process for doing so. This session will serve as a stats review session for you and a chance for you to provide feedback to me about the study, so that we can consider future questions.
- *Data Presentation.* I usually present my work at least one professional conference per year. I may ask for your help in putting together a poster. You also are welcome to attend this conference, but it isn't cheap!

**My Expectations of You**

Most important is that you be prompt and reliable. You should be committed to the project, convey enthusiasm for it, and always keep me informed of your progress. Some weeks will be much busier than others. I will work around your schedule as much as possible, but I will expect you to be flexible and not place the project at the bottom of your list of responsibilities.

If, after <i>thoroughly</i> reviewing the above information, you are still interested in working as my RA, please complete the following page and return it to me to set up a time to discuss it.
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**Information About You:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Classification: \_\_\_\_\_

When You Expect to Graduate: \_\_\_\_\_

Plans after Graduation:

List Psychology Courses You've Taken:

GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Current-Term Course Schedule:

Other Time Obligations (Social clubs, volunteer, job, other extracurricular activities):

Best Times for You to Participate:

List at least one Psychology faculty member who could endorse your application:

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Bring this sheet back to me to discuss it or to arrange a better time to do so:

D. Lisa Cothran, Ph.D.  
Psychology Department – 2803 / Holt Hall 350b  
423-425-2320 / Lisa-Cothran@utc.edu

*The form was adapted from one used by Dr. Elliott D. Hammer, mentor to Dr. Cothran.*