



**Project Code: Jenkins A**

**APD 1210 RESEARCH PRACTICUM COURSE**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS 2024-25**

**FALL/WINTER**

**Name and Title:** Dr. Jennifer (Jenny) Jenkins and Norah Jesseca Perlman, student

**Lab Website:** <https://jenkinslab.wordpress.com/lab-members/>

**TITLE OF RESEARCH PROJECT:** Examining the Health Implications of Multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences: A Meta-CART Analysis

**NUMBER OF STUDENT PLACES AVAILABLE:** 2

**PRIMARY MODE OF RESEARCH PLACEMENT PARTICIPATION:**

*IN PERSON*       *REMOTE (ONLINE)*       *HYBRID/FLEXIBLE*

**OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY:** *Please describe the larger research project here in a paragraph or so.*

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are stressful or traumatic events that can occur during childhood (i.e, before the age of 18). This includes abuse, neglect, household dysfunction, or exposure to violence. ACE's are known to have long-lasting impacts on physical health, mental health, social functioning, and overall wellbeing.

The objective of the current study is to conduct a meta-analysis of ACEs and outcomes. this would involve a systematic review and synthesis of the existing literature. The meta-analysis will address the following questions: 1) Which individual ACEs are more likely to appear together, forming clusters of adversity? (2) What specific combinations of ACEs are linked to distinct negative outcomes over the life course, and are certain combinations more detrimental than others, leading to more severe consequences? and (3) Within these identified combinations, does a particular ACE or set of ACEs contribute more significantly to outcomes? Subsequently, a meta-cart analysis will be conducted to assess the moderating effect of family support.



**DESCRIPTION OF STUDENT PARTICIPATION:**

The students will be tasked with study screening and data extraction. Study titles and abstracts will be reviewed to determine their eligibility to be included in the meta-analysis and meta-cart. Of those that are eligible, students will be asked to complete a full text review and extract relevant information, including authors, year of publication, country, method of data collection, ACE instrument used and number of items, informant, sample size, counts for each ACE and/or grouping, total ACE score, mean age, proportion of female and ethnicity, SES, familial relationship quality, outcomes (e.g., socio-emotional, cognitive development), and odds ratios (or the equivalent) and standard errors.

In doing these tasks, the students will learn the process of conducting a meta-analysis and meta-cart, which is a novel analysis in this field. They will also develop skills in conducting efficient and thorough literature reviews, identifying relevant studies, and data extraction and management strategies. Through data extraction, they will learn to critically evaluate research findings, including the strengths and limitations of individual studies. They will develop skills in assessing study quality, validity, and reliability, and understand the importance of considering potential biases. Depending on the scope of their involvement, the research assistant may gain exposure to basic statistical analysis techniques

**DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED SKILLS/BACKGROUND (OPTIONAL):**

Ideally, the students should have prior research experience.

**DAY AND TIMES OF LAB MEETINGS:**

The exact date and time of the fall and winter lab meetings are not yet decided, however, they take place every two weeks for 2 hours.