

Grady McDonnell

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Education

Degrees

BA in Applied Psychology
University of Illinois at Chicago

December 2024

Honors and Awards

Hirschberg Memorial Prize	Spring 2025
Dean's List, University of Illinois at Chicago	Fall 2024
Dean's List, University of Illinois at Chicago	Spring 2024
Dean's List, University of Illinois at Chicago	Fall 2023
Dean's List, University of Illinois at Chicago	Fall 2022
Dean's List, Columbia College Chicago	Spring 2022
Dean's List, Columbia College Chicago	Fall 2021
Dean's List, Columbia College Chicago	Spring 2021
Dean's List, Columbia College Chicago	Fall 2020

Certification and Trainings

ADOS-2 Observation Training	Fall 2026
Substance of Change Building Assets in Mentees Affected by Substance Misuse	Fall 2024
Promoting Enhanced Resilience & Learning (PERL)	Fall 2024
Mandated Reporter	Fall 2024
AIM Overview	Spring 2025
PEAK Overview	Spring 2025
Mental Health First Aid	Summer 2025 - Fall 2026
Registered Behavioral Technician (BACB1299040)	Spring 2025 - Spring 2025
CITI Program, Human Research, Basic Course	Fall 2024- Fall 2027
Healthsaver, First Aid CPR AED	Fall 2024-Fall 2026

Research Interests

Examining the development of adolescents, specifically how their development is affected by social media and technology. Additionally, I am interested in addiction research, and mental disorders, specifically Bipolar Disorder.

Research Experience

Research Assistant

Fall 2024 - Present

Cognition Behavior and Mindfulness Clinic UIC

- Reviewed relevant literature and studies that relate to the current project I was assisting with. Primarily focusing on ACT, Social Categorization, PEAK, Relational Frame Theory, Technology addiction and children with Autism.
- Created data testing/collection stimuli for various projects and programmed testing software in testable. Additionally, I analyzed data from studies using programs such as Qualtrics, Excel and Testable
- Collected data from human subjects both in person studies and studies done utilizing the internet.
- Lead research projects managing undergraduate research assistant

Independent Research

Fall 2024

Conducted with Dr. Alessandra Passarotti

- Designing and conducting a research study on how social media affects the reward systems, mental well being, and impulsivity of university students.
- Collecting and analyzing qualitative data gathered from survey reports.
- Won the Nancy Hirschberg Memorial Prize for Undergraduate Excellence in Psychology

Independent Study

Spring 2024

Conducted with Dr. Alessandra Passarotti

- Conducted a research study based on published journals on how social media affects the reward systems and impulsivity of adolescents with Bipolar Disorder.
- Created models to demonstrate the impact social media has on these systems in the different mental and emotional states of those with Bipolar Disorder.

Additional Class Research

PSCH 385 - FieldWork in Psychology

Fall 2024

- Conducted a research study based on published journals on how Social Emotional Learning programs can improve the resilience of adolescents

PSCH 394 - Special Topics in Psychology

Fall 2024

- Gathered and analyzed data through qualtrics to determine the relationship between art and an individual's climate anxiety.

PSCH 242 - Intro to Research in Psychology

Spring 2023

- Gathered and analyzed data through qualtrics to determine the relationship between one's social personality development, and the number of siblings they have.

Conference Presentations

McDonnell, G., (2025) Social Media's Impact on University Students: A Look at Impulsivity, Mood Regulation and Reward-sensitivity. Accepted at the Midwestern Psychological Association Annual Conference, Chicago.

Chastain, A.N., Dixon, M.R., & McDonnell, G. (2025). Equivalence class formation and attitudes toward neurodevelopmental disabilities. Accepted at the Association for Behavior Analysis International Annual Conference, Washington D.C.

Chastain, A.N., Dixon, M.R., McDonnell, G. (2025). Exploring Social Categorization: Stigma, Equivalence, and Implicit Attitudes. Symposium accepted at the Association for Contextual Behavior Science Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA

Chastain.A.N., **McDonnell, G.,** & Dixon, M.R. (2025). Equivalence class formation and attitudes toward neurodevelopmental disabilities. Presented at the University of Illinois, Chicago Applied Health Sciences Research Week, Chicago, IL

Chastain.A.N., Dixon, M.R., & McDonnell, G. (2025). Equivalence model of social categorization and stimulus blocking. Presented at the University of Illinois, Chicago Applied Health Sciences Research Week, Chicago, IL.

Professional Experience

Behavioral Interventionalist/Intake and Evaluation Coordinator March 2026- Present
Cognition, Behavior, and Mindfulness Clinic

- Facilitated the clinics intake process supporting families in gaining Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and Autism Diagnostic services by guiding them through our intake processes using platforms such as Qualtrics and Redcap.
- Worked directly on grant related tasks with The Autism Program of Illinois, such as working on quarterly reports and connecting families with other services outside of our clinic.
- Collaborated with the Autism Speaks in creating high quality services for families looking for support relating to autism services.
- Managed scheduling for clinic clients and CBM staff on a weekly basis.
- Helped create behavioral interventional plans with clinics patients and worked with children with autism by administering ABA therapy with the PEAK and AIM curriculum
- Trained new Registered Behavioral Technicians on administering ABA therapy, as well as trained new staff/interns on the clinical intake process.
- Worked with children with autism by administering ABA therapy with the PEAK and AIM curriculum

Registered Behavioral Technician/Program Assistant February 2025- March 2026
Cognition, Behavior, and Mindfulness Clinic
University of Illinois at Chicago

- Worked with children with autism by administering ABA therapy with the PEAK and AIM curriculum
- Facilitated the clinics intake process supporting families in gaining Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and Autism Diagnostic services by guiding them through our intake processes using platforms such as Qualtrics and Redcap.
- Trained new Registered Behavioral Technicians on administering ABA therapy, as well as trained new staff/interns on the clinical intake process.
- Worked directly on grant related tasks, such as working on quarterly reports and connecting families with other services outside of our clinic for The Autism Program of Illinois.

Intern

August 2024 - December 2024

Chicago Urban League

- Edited and created risk assessment surveys to be administered throughout the schools partnered with our Youth Services program.
- Created visual dashboards to analyze data from our surveys and the effectiveness of various departments.
- Organized and cleaned up data collected from various departments.
- Worked directly with middle school students teaching Social Emotional Learning Skills in group settings.

Professional Affiliations

International Honors Society of Psychology (Psi Chi)

2024-Present

Selected Coursework

Field Work in Applied Psychology (6 Credits)

Grade:A

Psychology of Interviewing (3 Credits)

Grade:A

Psychological Testing (3 Credits)

Grade:A

Psychological Disorders (3 Credits)

Grade: B

Behavioral Neuroscience (3 Credits)

Grade: B

Technical Skills

- Statistical Software: Qualtrics, Excel, and Google Data Studio, Jamovi
- Graphic Design Software: Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Procreate, and Canva
- Video Editing Software: Adobe Premiere Pro, Final Cut Pro, Sony Vegas Pro, Davinici Resolve and iMovie
- Other: Testable, Word, Powerpoint, and Logic Pro