

BRIANNA WESTFALL

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EDUCATION

Kent State University (KSU) Kent, OH | August 2026-Present

Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology

Track: Adult Clinical Psychology | Advisor: Karin Coifman

University of Arkansas (UARK) Fayetteville, AR | May 2024

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Minor in Criminology

Cum Laude

Honors Thesis: *I Don't Feel a Single Thing: The Experience of and Attitudes Toward Emotional Numbness*

Advisor: Jennifer C. Veilleux

HONORS AND AWARDS

Second Place in Social Sciences Research Poster Competition

University of Arkansas Undergraduate Research Symposium | April 2024

- Earned 2nd place among undergraduate research presentations in the social sciences category

Honors Research Grant

University of Arkansas | 2023-2024

- Competitive research funding of \$2,000 per semester to support honors thesis data collection, materials, and related expenses

Honors Conference Travel Grant

University of Arkansas | 2023-2024

- Travel award of \$1,000 to support travel costs for student presentations at national conferences

Honors Study Abroad Grant

University of Arkansas | May 2023

- Grant awarded to support participation in study abroad programs, covering up to 50% of total study abroad costs

Honors College Fellowship

University of Arkansas | 2020-2024

- Competitive merit-based scholarship, covering over 80% of tuition, room, and board awarded to 70-90 students annually from a pool of over 1,000 applicants

Arkansas Distinguished Governor's Scholarship

University of Arkansas | 2020-2024

- Statewide merit-based scholarship awarded up to 375 high-achieving Arkansas students annually

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Westfall, B., & Veilleux, J. C. (under review). I don't feel a single thing: The experience of and attitudes toward emotional numbness.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Gregory, C., **Westfall, B.**, Schreiber, R., & Veilleux, J. C. (2024, November). How emotional numbness relates to lifetime history of and daily engagement in non-suicidal self-injury. Oral presentation at the Association for Behavior and Cognitive Therapies annual conference, Philadelphia, PA.

Westfall, B. (2024, April). I Don't Feel a Single Thing: The Experience of Emotional Numbness. Poster presented at the Undergraduate Research Symposium annual poster competition, Fayetteville, AR. **Won second place in Social Science division.**

Westfall, B. (2023, September). Strong or numb? The experience of and attitudes toward emotional numbness. Poster presentation at the Society for Research in Psychopathology annual conference, St. Louis, MO.

Westfall, B., & Caldwell, M. (2023, April). Regulating emotions through endless scrolling: Understanding the doomscrolling experience and relationship with emotional regulation. Oral presentation at the Arkansas Symposium for Psychology Students annual spring meeting, Conway, AR.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences – Psychiatric Research Institute | 2024-present
Core Responsibilities Across Trials:

- Work with advertising agencies, clinics, and community partners to recruit and pre-screen participants
- Conduct informed consent procedures, participant screening, and behavioral/cognitive/safety assessments (e.g., DSM-5 Checklist, medical/psychiatric history, PHQ-9, BIS, etc.)
- Perform standardized clinical assessments (e.g., EKGs, vitals, urine drugs screens) and manage biological specimens (e.g., blood samples)
- Clean, code, and reconcile clinical trial data among various electronic data capture (EDC) systems (e.g., eClinical, iMedidata, REDCap, and Excel) and respond to communications regarding discrepancies from sponsors/monitors
- Ensure regulatory compliance through IRB correspondence, protocol deviation tracking, regulatory binder maintenance, audit preparation
- Collaborate with physicians, psychologists, nurses, and research staff to support protocol adherence, participant retention, and data integrity across federally funded multi-site trials

Study Specific Contributions:

- **Research Coordinator** | National Center for Opioid Research and Arkansas Children's Research Institute Pilot Study: "Adolescent Prescription Drug Misuse Prevention Intervention" | May 2025 – present
 - Oversee study startup, IRB submissions, regulatory document creation, and coordination with investigators to ensure institutional compliance
- **Research Coordinator** | UAMS Translational Research Institute Pilot Study: "Characterizing Motor and Cognitive Performance in Recently Abstinent Individuals with Methamphetamine Use Disorder" | Dec 2024 – present
 - Manage all phases of an observational study from study start-up to participant recruitment, screening, extended research visits, data management, and IRB correspondence
- **Research Assistant** | NIDA/VA Cooperative Study #1036: "Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Trial of Extended-Release Naltrexone Injection/Bupropion XL Tablets in the Treatment of Methamphetamine Use Disorder" | Oct. 2024 – present
 - Facilitate data organization, IRB documentation, and participant adherence via app-based medication monitoring and supervised dosing for a multi-site clinical trial
- **Research Assistant** | NIDA Clinical Trials Network-0100: "Optimizing Retention, Duration, and Discontinuation Strategies for Opioid Use Pharmacotherapy" | May 2024 – present
 - Coordinate research visits, medical monitoring, and participant adherence to both pharmacological and app-based behavioral interventions for a multi-site clinical trial
- **Recruitment and Retention Specialist** | Clinical Trials Network-0109: "Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Trial of Extended-Release Naltrexone and Buprenorphine for Cocaine Use Disorder" | May 2024 – present
 - Build referral pipelines, conduct pre-screens, and manage data/audit queries for a multi-site clinical trial

Terrorism Research Center Intern

University of Arkansas | Spring 2024

- Collected and coded data for the federally funded Extremist Crime Database, focusing on online radicalization and domestic extremist activity; maintained structured datasets and refined coding protocols

Independent Research

Honors Thesis: "I Don't Feel a Single Thing: The Experience of and Attitudes Toward Emotional Numbness" | University of Arkansas Honors College | 2022-2024

- Designed and implemented two studies on emotional numbness – first a qualitative study to understand experiences of emotional numbness in participants' own words, then a quantitative-focused study to examine attitudes toward, behaviors associated with, and factors contributing to emotional numbness experiences
- Performed literature reviews, developed surveys, recruited participants, collected and coded qualitative data, and analyzed quantitative data in SPSS
- Drafted a manuscript (under review) and presented findings at three research events, including thesis defense

Research Assistant

*Treating Emotions and Motivational Processes Transdiagnostically (TEMPT) Lab | PI:
Jennifer Veilleux, PhD | 2022-2024*

- Collaborated with doctoral candidates on data collection and analysis for a variety of laboratory projects
- Coordinated and facilitated experimental protocols exploring emotion regulation and processes, including leading participant sessions, acting as a confederate, administering placebo supplements, and conducting Emotional Image Tasks
- Trained incoming research assistants on experimental procedures and data management

DATA ANALYSIS & TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming & Analysis Tools

- Intermediate SPSS, Introductory RStudio
- Applied statistical analyses, such as ANOVA, correlations, and reliability in thesis and clinical trials

Data Management & Platforms

- REDCap, Qualtrics, Rave iMedidata, Emmes eClinical, Microsoft Excel
- Experienced in secure data entry, cleaning, tracking, source verification, and regulatory compliance

Clinical Research Compliance

- Good Clinical Practice Certified (NIDA CTN, 2025)
- Certified Clinical Research Specialist (UAMS, 2025)
- Human Subject Protection Certified (CITI, 2024)

Clinical Assessment Training

- EKG administration, EEG administration

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

CAPS Ambassador – Vice President

Counseling and Psychological Services | University of Arkansas | 2022–2024

- Led executive initiatives to promote mental health awareness, coordinate wellness programming, and expand student engagement with campus psychological services

Fulbright Honors College Peer Mentor

University of Arkansas | 2022–2023

- Provided academic, social, and emotional mentorship to first-year Honors students, advising on time management, course navigation, and adjustment to college life

Tutor

Student Success Center, University of Arkansas | Spring 2022, Spring 2023

- Tutored peers in chemistry and statistics, leading problem-solving sessions to reinforce material and build academic confidence

New Student Orientation Leader

University of Arkansas | Summer 2022

Represented the university during orientation, delivering presentations, fostering community, and supporting students and families in transition to campus life

Fellowship Weekend Mentor

University of Arkansas Honors College | 2021–2023

- Guided prospective Honors Fellows through an interview process, offering support and insight based on personal program experience

A-Week Mentor

University of Arkansas | 2021–2023

- Facilitated small-group discussions and supported first-year students during orientation week, promoting wellness, resource awareness, and campus adjustment

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Volunteer Coordinator, Fundraising Events

Not Today Brain Cancer (Non-Profit) | 2024–Present

Manage volunteer scheduling and logistics for large-scale fundraising events, advancing community engagement and advocacy for brain cancer awareness

Notetaker, Center for Educational Access

University of Arkansas | 2021

- Supported academic accessibility by providing timely, organized class notes for students with disabilities.

Honors College Ambassador

University of Arkansas Honors College | 2020–2024

- Represented the Honors College at recruitment events, donor engagements, and student panels while supporting outreach and prospective student engagement
- Provided logistical support and engaged with prospective students and families to share the honors student experience.