

Mercedes G. Peña

Curriculum Vitae

cedesp18@gmail.com | (559) 579-7741

EDUCATION

University of California, Merced | 2018-2022

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Psychology

Minor in Natural Sciences Education (NSED)

Cumulative GPA: 3.989/4.000

Major GPA: 4.000/4.000

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

The Social & Health Psychology Applied Behavioral Research for Prevention & Promotion (SHARPP) Lab

University of California, Merced | Research Assistant | January 2020-Present

Principal Investigator: Dr. Martin S. Hagger | Lab Manager: Kaylyn McAnally

- Conduct individual research project.
 - Execute meta-analytic procedures to explore the effect of mindfulness-based interventions on stress and mediation in this effect.
 - Train undergraduate research assistants in meta-analytic processes.
- Assist graduate students in phases of the meta-analytic process.
 - Physical activity and cortisol regulation: A meta-analysis | Dr. Susette A. Moyers – assisted in duplicate, title, abstract, and full-text screening, quality assessment, and data table construction of over 1,000 articles.
 - Illness representations, treatment beliefs, and health outcomes among patients with chronic pain: A meta-analysis (ongoing) | Lauren E. McKinley – assisted in title and abstract screening, construct identification, demographic data extraction, and quality assessment of over 400 articles.
- Serve on the Research Assistant Leadership Team (RALT) – April 2021-May 2022
 - Guided undergraduate research assistants through lab training, professional development, and office hours.
 - Collaborated with graduate students to develop lab training materials and plan lab social events.

Psychological Sciences Honors Program

University of California, Merced | Honors Student | May 2021-May 2022

Advisor: Dr. Martin S. Hagger | Honors Instructor: Dr. Eric Walle

- Developed a meta-analytic review proposal to explore the strength of the effect of mindfulness-based interventions on stress reduction and analyze the role of mindfulness in mediating effects of mindfulness-based interventions on stress.
- Searched various databases using relevant terms to collect articles that have now undergone duplicate, title, abstract screening, full-text screening, and data extraction.
- Presented research findings through written thesis, poster presentation at honors research symposium, and oral presentation for Psychological Sciences faculty members.

Translational Research Center (TRC) | A Health Sciences Research Institute Division

University of California, Merced | Undergraduate Research Assistant | September 2021-December 2021

Director: Dr. Linda D. Cameron | Research Project Manager: Marisela Yopez

- Assisted with survey measure piloting and survey measure preparation.
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PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND RELEVANT SKILLS

Quality Assessment Checklist for Survey Studies in Psychology (Q-SSP)

University of California, Merced | July 2021

- Quality assessment tool used to report study quality according to reporting quality.

Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI)

University of California, Merced | Completion date: October 11, 2021/ Expiration date: October 10, 2024

- Social/Behavioral Research Course

Applications:

- EndNote
- R
- SPSS

Languages:

- English: First language – fluent in speaking, listening, reading, writing
 - Spanish: Second language – proficient with speaking, listening, reading, writing
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HONORS AND AWARDS

- **Institutional Highest Honors – Summa Cum Laude** May 2022
Awarded to undergraduate students who achieve a grade point average within the top 2 percent of the School of Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts (SSHA).
 - **Psychological Sciences Highest Honors** May 2022
Awarded by the honors committee for completion of a thesis following independently conducted research under the guidance of a faculty research advisor.
 - **Chancellor’s Honors List** May 2019/2020/2021
Awarded to students who meet Dean’s Honors List requirements for two semesters in a single academic year.
 - **Dean’s Honors List** December 2018/2019/2020
Awarded to students who have maintained a 3.5 grade point average or better with no grades of incomplete or no pass for a single semester.
 - **Abrescy and Kranich Library Award for Student Research Excellence** May 2020
Awarded to recognize outstanding undergraduate research at UC Merced – recognition of students who demonstrate effective use of library and information resources along with an understanding of the research process and growth in associated practices.
 - **Frances M. Benton Scholarship** July 2020/2021
Awarded to undergraduate students who demonstrate strong academic promise and high financial need.
 - **Willer/BUR Scholarship** June 2019
Awarded to undergraduate students who maintain a 3.00 grade point average and display high financial need.
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ON CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

CalTeach Bobcat Summer Stem Academy | *Intern*

Summer 2022

CalTeach | *Pre-service Teacher*

Spring 2020/Fall 2021

Psychology Club | *Member*

August 2019-May 2022

Early Childhood Education Center | *Volunteer*

September 2019-December 2019

Aristotle House LLC | *Member*

August 2018-May 2019

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Psi Chi | University of California, Merced

August 2020-Present

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

- Introduction to Psychology (SPRING 2019)
 - Analysis of Psychological Data (SUMMER 2019)
 - Methods in Psychology (FALL 2019)
 - Upper Division Undergraduate Research (SPRING 2020/SPRING 2021/FALL 2021/SPRING 2022)
 - Social Psychology (FALL 2020)
 - Health Psychology (SPRING 2021)
 - Writing Discipline: Psychology (SPRING 2021)
 - Cognition, Affect, and Health (FALL 2021)
 - Upper Division Individual Study (FALL 2021/SPRING 2022)
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