

Michaela E. Pierson, M.A.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Contact Information

mpierson3@huskers.unl.edu

EDUCATION

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Anticipated 2026

Ph.D., School Psychology

APA-accredited and NASP-approved program in School Psychology

Advisor: Dr. Beth Doll, Ph.D.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

M.A., Educational Psychology

2022

Illinois State University

2020

Bachelor of Science, Graduated: May 2020

Major: Psychology

Minor: Cognitive Science – Linguistics

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Student Therapist

2022 - Present

Counseling and School Psychology Clinic, Lincoln, Nebraska

Supervisors: Dr. Scott Napolitano, PhD, LP; Dr. Heather Hruskoci, PhD, LP; Cassidy Spradlin, MA, PLMHP

- Provides individual and family therapy for youth referred for behavioral and emotional concerns (e.g., anxiety, ADHD, autism spectrum disorder, depression, school-related concerns, social communication concerns)
- Develops session plans and monitors client therapy goals
- Conducts and delivers evidence-based interventions such as cognitive behavioral therapy, social skills training, evaluations, and psychoeducation
- Receives individual and group supervision and provide peer supervision and feedback
- Consults with parents and teachers to implement individualized behavioral interventions
- Completes support activities (e.g., chart review, progress notes, report writing)

School Psychologist in Training

2021 - 2022

Maxey Elementary School, Lincoln, Nebraska

Supervisors: Bryanna Doughty, Ed.S.; Dr. Matthew Gormley, Ph.D.

- Conducted comprehensive psychoeducational evaluations, including cognitive, academic, and behavioral assessment, functional behavior assessments (FBA), direct observations, and record reviews
- Wrote integrated reports and interpreted assessment results in multidisciplinary team meetings for parents, teachers, and special education team members

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- Provided treatment recommendations and collaborated with relevant individuals to develop behavior intervention plans
- Conducted social-emotional and problem-solving intervention groups
- Provided direct counseling and intervention to students with behavioral and social-emotional concerns
- Participated in and assisted in leading multidisciplinary team, student assistance team, and special education team meetings
- Supported implementation of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) and Response to Intervention (RTI) through involvement in systems-level committees such as Tier II, Tier III, and Student Services

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

President - Student Affiliates in School Psychology **2022 - Present**

- Oversee the leadership team and all activities as an Executive Board Member
- Plan monthly general member and executive board meetings
- Complete all required trainings and paperwork set forth by Student Involvement and ASUN to maintain compliance with Recognized Student Organization

School Psychology Search Advisory Committee **2022 – Present**

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

- Play an active role in identifying qualified individuals, recruiting and encouraging nominations and applications, and monitoring the confidential applicant pool to produce a robust and qualified pool of candidates for a school psychology faculty position.
- Ensure the diversity of the candidate pool by striving for inclusive excellence and upholding the University of Nebraska's goals and principles of affirmative action and diversity.
- Screen candidates based on the qualifications and characteristics established for the position.

Graduate Student Advisory Committee **2022 - Present**

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

- Attend monthly meetings with the Educational Psychology Department chair and other student representatives to discuss department climate, plan social activities, and advocate for student needs on behalf of the school psychology program.

Student Interest Group Co-Leader/Founder **2021 - Present**

Gender & Sexuality Equity Coalition, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

- Designed and created a department-wide coalition of more than 30 members by writing a mission statement, reviewing relevant literature, sending out surveys and advertising, and finding a faculty representative
- Schedule and run monthly meetings to reflect requested themes surrounding gender and sexuality, especially as they pertain to professionals in the field of school psychology
- Intentionally research and stay updated on local and national news/issues relating to gender and sexuality

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- Organized department-wide book club focused on intersectionality

Vice Co-Chair Secretary

2021 – 2022

Diversity and Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

- Maintained electronic records and correspondences on behalf of and to DEMAC members
- Maintained an archival of all documents related to DEMAC, including the bylaws, meeting minutes, and conference proceedings
- Assumed treasurer responsibilities when the position was vacated in March, including booking venues for DEMAC events and handling purchases on behalf of the committee
- Assisted the board and department in the transition toward a new committee structure, including a complete update and revision of the bylaws (previously updated in 2009)

Communication and Wellness Chair

2021 – 2022

Student Affiliates in School Psychology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

- Maintained and updated the program social media accounts and website which provide information to prospective students about our program and the SASP organization
- Updated the department Program Spotlights
- Ensured that updated and important information about program requirements and resources was available to students through Microsoft SharePoint

Professional Academic Advisor

2020

University College Academic Advisement, Illinois State University

- Fulfilled a date-definite contract as a professional advisor for University College Academic Advisement during ISU's freshman orientation program
- Presented to students and their families via Zoom about university requirements, general education and major course requirements, university organizations, campus resources, and more
- Met with groups of 10-12 students via Zoom to help them register for fall semester courses
- Maintained a caseload of approximately 300 students and frequently corresponded with these students to discuss fall courses, major and career exploration, personal well-being, and campus resources
- Attended weekly staff meetings to discuss university policies, updates, and progress throughout the freshman orientation program
- Preserved accurate and confidential records of personal student information

Academic Peer Advisor Leader

2017 - 2020

University College Academic Advisement, Illinois State University

- Served as an academic advisor to students of various demographics, including: freshman, undeclared students, transfer students, and students on academic probation
- Maintained a caseload of approximately 40 students and frequently corresponded with these students to discuss semester courses, major and career exploration, personal well-being, academic progress, and campus resources
- Met with students on academic probation to develop academic action plans and corresponded with their professors to determine where intervention was needed

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- Preserved accurate and confidential records of student grades and progress

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln

2021 – Present

EDPS 209: Strategies for Academic Success

- Instruct two course sections per semester of approximately 70 undergraduate students total, ranging from freshman to seniors
- Prepare and present PowerPoint lessons using textbook content and other supporting documents
- Facilitate in-class learning activities to supplement course material
- Create and administer quizzes that reflect relevant course material
- Grade and provide timely feedback on quizzes, in-class activities, and assignments
- Oversee both in-person, scheduled course sections as well as online, asynchronous sections
- Attend weekly meetings with supervisor and other GTAs to discuss course updates

Guest Lecturer

2019

Behavior Disorders in Children course, Illinois State University

- Delivered two lectures regarding autism spectrum disorder for Dr. Steven Landau's 300-level Behavior Disorders in Children course
- Discussed the diagnosis and treatment of Autism and shared my own personal experiences
- Created lesson plan and prepared a supplemental PowerPoint presentation

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

2018

Reasoning in Psychology Using Statistics course, Illinois State University

- Served as an undergraduate teaching assistant under Dr. John Cutting
- Attended the lab sections of this course
- Assisted the graduate instructor with grading, course preparation, proctoring exams, and content presentation
- Aided students in navigating and running analyses using SPSS Statistics software

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Lab Member

2021 – Present

Youth Wellness and Resilience Lab, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

- Developed survey assessments, refined their validity, and linked surveys to subsequent actions to strengthen classroom climate
- Assisted in developing a study by forming research questions and revising IRB forms
- Recruited teacher education students to participate in a study and ran focus groups to assess participants' understanding of graphs using ClassMaps data
- Assisted in the development of the NASP Position Statement on Prevention and Wellness in schools

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- Created a short video to reflect policy surrounding assessing student psychological well-being in schools, as described in the *Building Better Schools with Evidenced-Based Policy* book

Graduate Research Assistant

2020 – 2021

ADHD Lab, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

- Assisted Dr. Matt Gormley with various research tasks
- Reviewed relevant ADHD literature and facilitate and participate in group discussions about these topics
- Merged data files in Excel from the TAPP research study
- Aided older students with their dissertation projects, including coding and entering data

Research Apprentice

2018 – 2020

Children's Research Lab, Illinois State University

- **Preschool Cars Team** 2019 – 2020
 - Collaborated with Dr. Alycia Hund in investigating preschool children's comprehension and production of cardinal, ordinal, and spatial labels
 - Recruited three-to-five-year-old children and their parents to participate
 - Collected data and ran study protocol in preschools using two simple cars tasks
 - Coded and entered data as well as parent demographic surveys and child language checklists
- **Dissertation Team** 2018 – 2019
 - Worked alongside Jessie Lucas-Nihei, advanced doctoral trainee, collecting data for her dissertation regarding preschool children's peer relationship skills, particularly in relation to parent-child attachment and child self-regulation skills
 - Recruited preschool-age participants
 - Collected data in preschools and childcare centers using four self-regulation tasks
 - Coded and entered child data as well as teacher demographic surveys
- **Preschool Train Team** 2018 – 2019
 - Assisted Dr. Alycia Hund in investigating preschool children's comprehension of cardinal, ordinal, and spatial labels
 - Recruited three-to-five-year-old children and their parents to participate
 - Collected data and ran study protocol in preschools using a simple train task
 - Coded and entered obtained data and parent demographic surveys

SPECIALIZED TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Graduate Teaching Assistant Training Course

2021

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln

- Attended training program to better prepare for future teaching opportunities
- Completed modules on topics such as effective teaching, teaching styles, giving explanations that students understand, responding to questions, using visual aids, classroom management, grading, and assessments
- Submitted weekly assignments, including reflections and comprehension checks

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- Completed six microteaching experiences that involved developing lesson plans, creating PowerPoint presentations, incorporating videos and other visuals, recording lectures, and fielding questions from mock students
- Earned a certificate for completing the course

CITI Training

- Social/Behavioral Basic Course, valid until 2024

Undergraduate Clinician

2019 - 2020

The Autism Place (TAP), Illinois State University

- Provided social skills services to elementary and middle-school age children with autism spectrum disorder
- Implemented individualized programs utilizing principles of applied behavior analysis under the supervision of Dr. Karla Doepke
- Received extensive training regarding the diagnosis and treatment of Autism as well as instructional methods such as discrete trials, incidental teaching, and visual instruction

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Volunteer Research Apprentice

2019 – 2020

Children's Research Lab, Illinois State University

Preschool Cars Team

- Collaborated with Dr. Alycia Hund in investigating preschool children's comprehension and production of cardinal, ordinal, and spatial labels
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- Coded and entered data as well as parent demographic surveys and child language checklists

Partners in Reading

2018 – 2020

The Normal Public Library

- Met weekly with an elementary-age student to read and play games together at the library
- Encouraged partners to challenge themselves with the books they chose and explained any unfamiliar words or concepts

Volunteer Chair

2017 – 2020

Student Psychology Association, Illinois State University

- Provided members of the organization with volunteer opportunities in the Bloomington-Normal community
- Maintained records of members' volunteer hours and ensured that everyone completed at least three hours of volunteer work each semester

TAP Summer Camp

2019

The Autism Place (TAP), Illinois State University

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- Volunteered as an undergraduate clinician at a summer camp for children with autism spectrum disorder every Monday through Thursday evening during the month of June
- Assisted with running games and activities, encouraged peer interactions, and provided positive reinforcement

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Pierson, M. E., White, C.S., Doll, B., & Denniston, J. R. (2022). Evaluating teacher graph comprehension using the ClassMaps survey. Poster to be presented at the National Association of School Psychologists Convention.

Doll, B., White, C. S., Rangel-Pancheco, A, & **Pierson, M. E.** (2022). Can a brief ClassMaps survey be used to assess school learning environments? Poster presented at the National Association of School Psychologists Convention.

Keating, S., **Pierson, M. E.**, Stevens, M., Weimer, K., (2019, April). The Relationship Between Parent-Child Attachment, Relationship Qualities, Self-Regulation, and Peer Acceptance During the Preschool Years. Poster presented at the Illinois State University Research Symposium, Normal, IL.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)	2020 – Present
Student Affiliates in School Psychology	2020 – Present
Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology	2019 – Present
Student Psychology Association at Illinois State University	2017 – 2020

HONORS AND AWARDS

Dean's List	2017 – 2020
Redbird Scholarship	2016 – 2020

ASSESSMENTS

Acadience Math
Acadience Reading
AIMSweb Benchmark and Progress Monitoring Measures for Response to Intervention
Behavior Assessment for Children, Third Edition, (BASC-3)
Conners, Third Edition (Conners 3)
Differential Ability Scales, Second Edition (DAS-II)
Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills, Eighth Edition (DIBELS 8th)
Functional Behavior Analysis (FBA)
Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement, Third Edition (KTEA-3)
The Suicide Behaviors Questionnaire-Revised (SBQ-R)
Wechsler Individual Achievement Test, Fourth Edition (WIAT-4)
Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, Fifth Edition (WISC-V)

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Wechsler Preschool & Primary Scale of Intelligence, Fourth Edition (WPPSI-IV)
Woodcock-Johnson Tests of Achievement, Fourth Edition (WJ-IV ACH)
Woodcock-Johnson Tests of Cognitive Abilities (WJ-IV COG)